Re:Monster

リ・モンスター

金斬児狐

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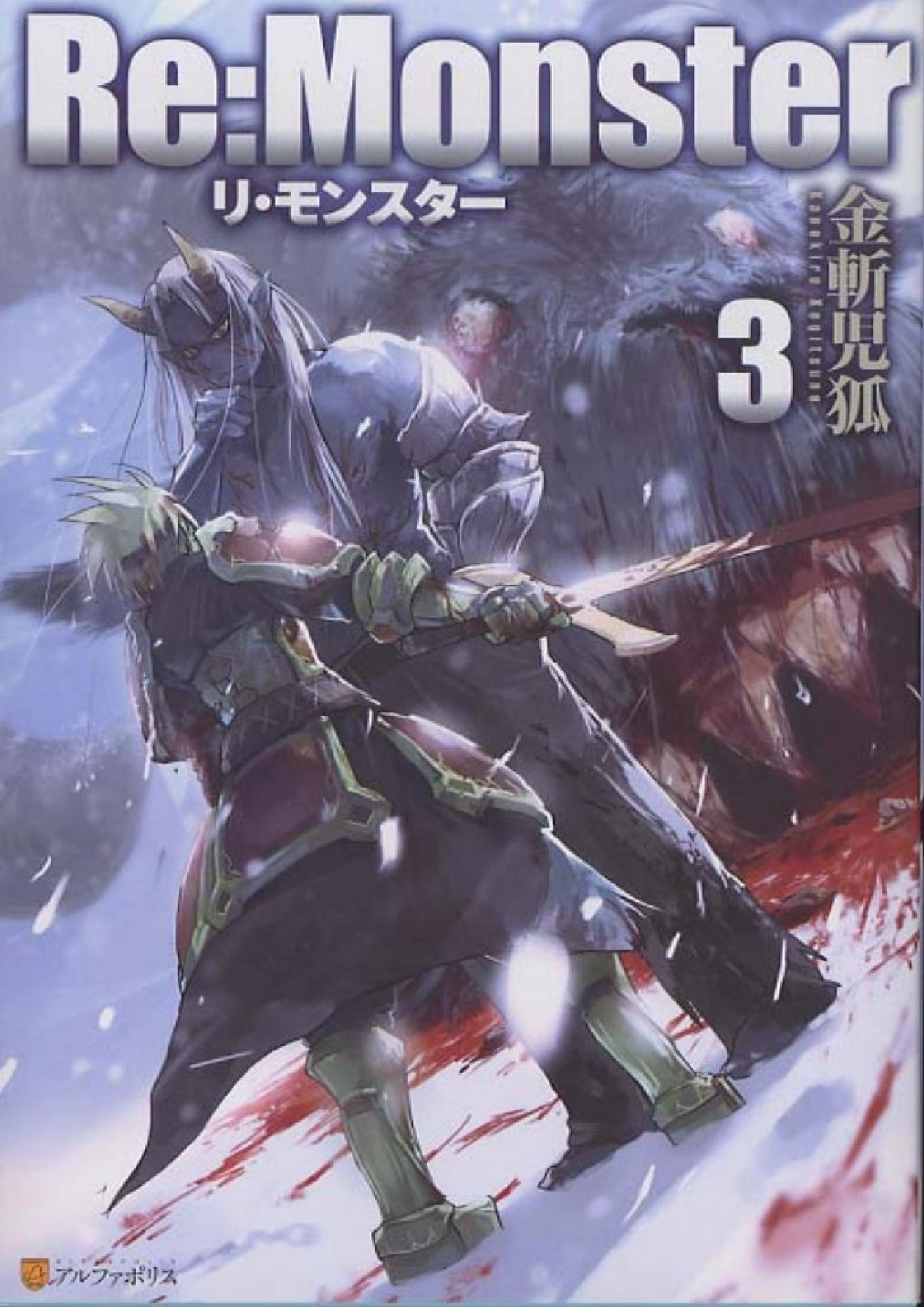
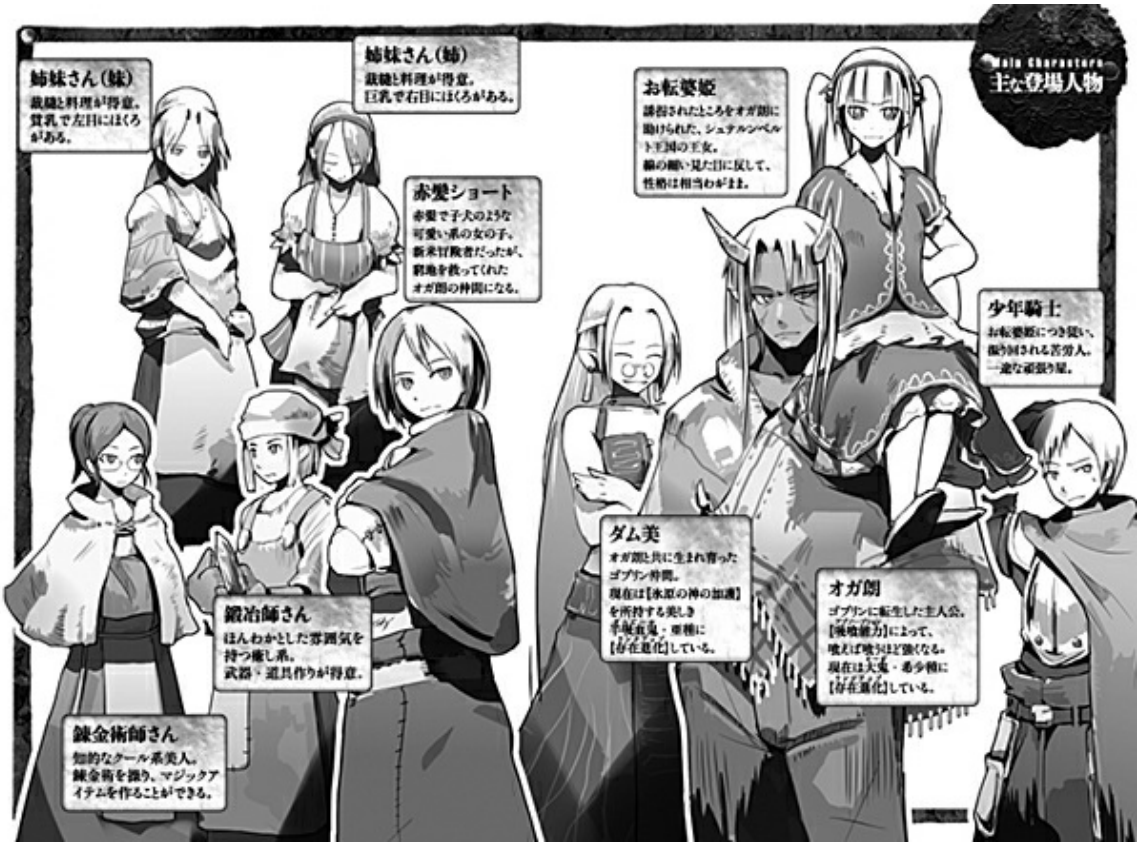


アルファポリス


Main Characters
主な登場人物
姉妹さん（妹）
裁縫と料理が得意。
貧乳で左目にほくろがある。
姉妹さん（姉）
裁縫と料理が得意。
巨乳で右目にほくろがある。
赤髪ショート
赤髪で子犬のような可愛い系の女の子。
新米冒険者だったが、窮地を救ってくれたオガ朗の仲間になる。
お転婆姫
誘拐された所をオガ朗に助けられた、シュテルンベルト王国の王女。
顔の細い見た目に反して、性格は相当わがまま。
少年騎士
お転婆姫につき従い、振り回される苦労人。
一途な恋振り屋。
ダム美
オガ朗と共に生まれ育ったゴブリン骨間。
現在は【氷原の神の加護】を所持する美しき
半妖狐鬼・亜種に
【存在進化】している。
オガ朗
ゴブリンに転生した主人公。
【吸収能力】によって、
喰えば喰うほど強くなる。
現在は大鬼・希少種に
【存在進化】している。
鍛冶師さん
ほんわかとした雰囲気を持つ癒し系。
武器・道具作りが得意。
錬金術師さん
知的なクール系美人。
錬金術を操り、マジックアイテムを作ることができる。

アンデット系
亜人系
スケルトン
脅威度
経験値 70～140
ドロップアイテム
笑う頭骨／小さな骨／硬い肋骨
特徴
見た目通りの"動く骨"ゆえ、打撃に弱く斬撃に強い。
また、体力という概念が無い為、持久戦に秀でている。
レベルに比例して、装備が変化する。
エルフ
脅威度
経験値 500～700
ドロップアイテム
エルフの生血／エルフの弓矢／ミスラルのインゴット
特徴
弓を得意とする、美男美女揃いの森の住人。
精霊と交信して力を貸してもらう事もできる。
種族の特徴である長い耳を誇るのは、最大のタブー。
グレータースケルトン
脅威度
経験値 670～810
ドロップアイテム
偉大なる魂の欠片
歴戦の戦士の骨／傷だらけの頭骨／古びた鋼鉄の大剣
特徴
スケルトンの上位種で、スケルトンを生成する能力を持つ。
剣技に優れており、オーガやハインドベアーすら
狩る事が可能。
ハイエルフ
脅威度
経験値 1000～1100
ドロップアイテム
ハイエルフの聖なる薄膜／ハイエルフの聖なる生き血
精霊の瞳
特徴
エルフが【存在進化】した上位種。
背中の翼で空を飛ぶ事も可能。その血には
聖なる力が宿り、延命の効果があるとされている。
ブラックスケルトン
脅威度
経験値 450～850
ドロップアイテム
黒き頭骨／頑強なる大腿骨／硬い黒い頭骨
特徴
加護の力によって黒く染まった賢きスケルトン。
グレータースケルトンと同等以上の実力を持ち、
アックスやランスなど得物も様々。
ドライアド
脅威度
経験値 420～500
ドロップアイテム
ドライアドの秘蜜／祝福する霊木／愛欲の花粉
特徴
本体である樹の種類によって能力は大きく
変動するが、存在するのは雌体のみ。
総じて非常に美人で、異性に【魅了】を仕掛け、
精力を吸い取る。

Day 96

We arrived at Fortress City, Trient, around noon. It was a large city surrounded by large, robust white walls. It would be very difficult to take down this fortress given that even siege weaponry have been built into the walls of the city.

As I was thinking about that, there seems to have been a large commotion around us. It's probably because of myself, being a Black Ogre, accompanied with both Kumajirou and Kurosaburou

It seems like I may not even be able to set a foot into the city... It's safe to say that the current situation might even turn into a dire situation... But just then, the Deputy Manager arrived and forced the guards to allow me entry. It goes to show that the Deputy Manager is actually pretty influential in this region.

To show my gratitude, I agreed to sell some of my Turtle Snake shells pretty cheaply to him. Anyway, I decided it might be best to hide my body in a cloak, even though it couldn't hide my horns, but at least I make less of a scene now..

Humans made up the majority of the population within the Fortress City, though I did see some members of different beast races and some subhuman races as well. I'd have to say that the human to non-human ratio is around 6:1.

The city was all in all very lively; the shops were aligned on the main street; cheerful sounds and laughter of children resounded through the street; lights came from different buildings, and the over all spirit was nice.

There are certainly dark aspects in this city as well, but for the most part, it's a city that you can enjoy.

I visited various shops after entering the town, and later in the day, I went to look for an inn to spend the night. Today was quite busy.

I plan to stay at this city for four or five days.

I also told the human girls that they could either come with me or stay here in the city when I left, and that I would respect their decision either way.

Day 97

Today, I'm guided by Redhead through the city. We went to a building complex that she referred to as, the <<Central Guild Government Building>>. Those with me at present are Dhammi-chan and Redhead. Blacksmith-san had come in to the city as well, but is exploring the city with a Lord and three others as escorts. She said that she planned to sell some of our lower quality items to gain some funds to shop with tomorrow. I'll say this once, the <<Central Guild Government Building>> is a pretty big, respectable facility to be certain.

It seemed to be a three-floored building from the outside. The first floor was mostly comprised of a tavern theme with multiple locations for drinking liquor throughout the floor. I have to say that if it wasn't for Redhead giving me a light nudge on the arm, I might have gotten distracted. I really like alcohol after all, so even if I stayed here drinking for the entire day, I probably wouldn't have minded. At any rate, there were several individuals who pulled their swords on me in surprise the moment that I pulled down my hood, and I had to actively repress my instinct to counter. For them, holding their swords out is a pretty legitimate defensive measure to calm themselves. Indeed, killing in the city might be a bad idea, though when one of them made a go at me, I gave the lightest brush at them as I possibly could. Judging from the way his arm bent, it was probably broken. Nothing to be done. It was either that or take a sword-point in the eye. The receptionist seemed to be more of a calmed figure than the others standing in the lobby. I looked through a list of quests that required hunting animals in the surrounding area; there were several of these missions.

I pulled the necessary items from my item box and handed them over the counter. The missions were pretty simple, such as gathering several Boruforu hides. While I was at it, I made a request to have Redhead registered as a member of the guild within this city. While that was in progress I went to gather the rewards for the several quests that I had already completed. I also wanted to gather more

information and gold from selling some random goods. One of the rewards I received was pretty dull, though for an adventurer of moderate levels such as Redhead, it could have proven to be useful. I ended up meeting an interesting old man who was quite knowledgeable. As it turns out, he was responsible for much of the guild's dealings.

As I continued my conversation with the old man, Redhead walked up and informed me that her current rank in this guild was one higher than it had been in her previous guild. Satisfactory, given her current abilities; it matches her quite fittingly.

Well, I wonder how Blacksmith-san has fared. Well, in all it doesn't have too much to do with me. After a while in the town, we met up with Alchemist-san's group, so I decided to have a small date with the Redhead and Alchemist-san while shopping. Although I really don't get why shopping has such a significance with women or why they needed to shop for so long. Though its fair to say that this is a common occurrence with both world's I have been a part of. I was tired after several hours of constant shopping, and I would have ended up holding everything if it wasn't for my item box.

By the way, there was a fellow that had been following me for some time, so I had the girls go on ahead while I walked down an alleyway. There, he made his attack, though I left him pummeled on the ground with one swing. I stripped him completely naked - think of it as a fitting punishment instead of me just simply killing him flat out.

That said, I really wonder what I can do to prevent people from noticing me.

I trained lightly with Dhammi-chan and Redhead after we returned and then went to sleep.

Day 98

It's early in the morning, after some light training with the girls in a vacant lot near the inn, I decided I would be walking the streets alone today.

Dhammi-chan said that she and Blacksmith-san would go shopping for clothes. I managed to get the three Lords, Fire Lord-kun and Illusion Lord-kun, to do the porter work for today. Since Wind Lord-chan is also a woman, she should enjoy shopping with the other girls today.

Given that they have become my scapegoats for today, I pulled them aside and quickly gave them my thanks before heading out myself.

As I would be wandering alone, my hood and cloak alone cannot cover my Ogre body. I used [Metamorphosis] and [Shapeshift] to change my body into my previous human form.

I need to be careful, it's better not to become suspicious here and create a scene.

I continued with my information gathering in the city as I wandered around; rumors spread very quickly here, you know.

Basically, Ogres are known as Monsters that often go out of their way to harm other species. The same may not be said about a rare Ogre Mage, who rarely attack humans; but given their recognition as a very dangerous race, humans will probably be even more cautious around them. My troubles at the gate can also be attributed to it.

The situation at the gate happened because they had no ability to recognize that I was different than most other Ogres.

Just baseless prejudice. Typical of human nature.

I walked along the city's main street for about three hours or so. I stopped for lunch at a restaurant and spent some time gathering information. After a while, I left to continue exploring the city.

Since I wore some pretty good equipment, some thugs must have thought I would be a good target.

As a result, they started to trail me. There seems to be six thugs in total, armed with things such as knives and hatchets. The most amusing aspect about these idiots was their "Gwehehe" squeaking laughter. I found the similarity to the stereotypical villain to be quite amusing.

I walked down an alleyway to coax the idiots into attacking me. When there was no one around, the thugs began their attack without even bothering to threaten me. Since I had actually forgotten that I'm in my human form, and my body is far smaller than I'm used to, my sense of distance was distorted and the first knife managed to pierce right through my heart.

Unfortunately for my opponents, I'm still an Ogre, just in human form. This wound was nothing to me what so ever. Seeing that I hadn't died, nor was I even in pain, the thug who stabbed me pulled back in surprise. I played with them for awhile, making them suffer greatly until they wished I would kill them, to which I would oblige the second they asked. I'm not cruel after all. I would end it quickly by snapping their necks. I decided to eat their corpses in the back alley. Even though no one appeared on my 【Sense Presence】, I still ate them as quickly as I could.

Ability unlocked [Job-Thief]

Ability unlocked [Silent Stab]

Ability unlocked [Smoke Bomb]

The six of them appeared to have been thieves. Since there was a common pattern on the rings that each of them wore, it would seem that they belonged to the same organization and that this organization may have a large number of members.

Well, this really had nothing to do with me, so I decided to leave it here for now.

None of their equipment was worth collecting, so I just dissolved all of their worthless possessions with my acidic body fluids, clearing

the site completely of the death of these six people.

Walking around the back ally a while, expecting more thugs to try and jump me, I saw a boy violently arguing with five men.

Those men had a hardy and tough aura, and their average age was around the late twenties. Having knives on their chests, I suspected that bloodshed is an ordinary subject for these individuals.

At the same time, the young boy in the center of the men was about thirteen or fourteen years old.

His blonde hair reflected the dim light in the alley; he actually had a very pretty face the way it was shining. No doubt, he would grow up to be a very handsome figure of a man in the future. He was wearing silvery-white light armor, a cape and a red cloak. He might be the apprentice of a knight, judging from the sword strapped to his hip. From the looks of him, I would guess that he comes from a high-standing noble family of a high breed.

While I was hiding, I decided to eavesdrop. Apparently, the situation was something about a kidnapping.

The Boy Knight seemed to be pressing the thugs to get information. As he continued, he slowly made ready to unsheathe his blade at a moment's notice. I wasn't very interested in getting involved. In fact, I actually thought about going back, but then... then I noticed that these thugs had the same rings on their fingers as the ones I ate earlier had.

Just when I thought I had convinced myself not to watch any further for risk of involving myself, as expected, a fight broke out.

Though the thugs outnumbered him, but the boy had better equipment by far. The difference in number, however, was not that easy to overcome. In the end, the boy ended up overwhelmed by the five thugs and captured.

One of the men lowered his knife to the boy's chest while the rest of the thugs held him down. That one man put enough power into his swing to cut through a horse as he went to pierce the defenseless boy's chest. At that point, I jumped in and knocked out all five of the

thugs. I decided to leave them all alive, for now. Using my [Parasite] ability on them, I planned to investigate the location of the thug's hiding place, just in case.

I carried the worn-out boy and left the place. Since it's troublesome, not to mention easy to be caught leaving the scene as I was with several fainted men behind me, I made sure to stash the thugs so they would not be discovered.

Once we had arrived at a remote location, I saw to curing the Boy's injuries, for a fee of course. The boy was quite livid at me for letting the thugs live, I passed him a lie saying that I had already killed them and I was responsible for saving his life. It was only a partial lie; I probably will end up killing them once they serve their purpose. When asked who I was, I gave him a vague answer, stating that "I'm just an ordinary mercenary", without revealing who I actually was.

Day 99

It's three in the morning, and the city is still shrouded in darkness. I decided it would be more suitable to be in my Ogre form rather than my human body. Together with me, are Dhammi-chan and Illusion Lord-kun. In front of us, is the figure of the Boy Knight who I helped yesterday. The story goes that when I took the boy to an inn, he was contacted by a mysterious individual.

Although he hadn't come back for an hour, he had requested that I would stay here and bring assistance for something important. With my curiosity piqued, I saw no reason not to, at the very least, see this point through. It was then that the boy made his request. Mercenary or not, what he needed was an arm for hire, and after I accepted his single term, he revealed that he was apparently on a mission to rescue the Tomboy Princess, whom he serves.

It seems that the Tomboy Princess had come incognito to Trient, though during her stay in the city, she went missing. It seems that the abduction of the princess had been orchestrated by an organization led by a kidnapping leader. The ransom request had been sent, and that trade was what I had witnessed yesterday. The reason that the boy had left in a hurry was to drop off the ransom that he had on his person.

The reason that he had been arguing was because the thugs had claimed they wanted more gold for the princess than had previously been requested. Well, it looks like it might work out well after all, since I had already placed parasites within the thugs. If things go smoothly, I should be able to go directly to their base of operations.

Ah yes, and on the topic of calling the Boy Knight, well, "Boy Knight," I was quickly corrected that his name was Nomeshi. I'll ignore the rudeness, especially since if I slap him, he might die.

When I tracked the location, it seems that the thugs' hideout was a mansion of a former noble who had fallen from grace. It seems that more may be connected to this issue than a mere royal kidnapping,

as humorous as saying that sounds.

Although the royal escort team was also with the Boy Knight, I wasn't keen on having them come along; stealth holds a major importance, so only a small elite force should go after the Princess. However, the employer is the Boy Knight, so I'll follow him, reluctantly, because of our contract.

Redhead was still sleeping along with the rest of the girls. The other two Lords are keeping guard, so there shouldn't be any need to worry about them. I also don't need to wake them for this matter. Three people should suffice. I am, of course, excluding the existence of the boy since his worth in battle is near zero compared to us.

As soon as we arrived at the hideout of the organization, I created ten Black Skeleton Assassins and sent them to slaughter any lookouts that might sound an alarm. After several minutes, there were ten human bodies.

After there was no further risk of being detected from the outside, I personally entered the enemy hideout. The result, to tell the truth, was that the entire organization was destroyed before the sun even rose. The leader of the Bandits had passed out after drinking too much, and after I easily killed him, the others all died without any difficulty. I didn't spare a single one. After all, I had to follow my contract to the letter. To this end, I had no complaints.

We safely rescued the Tomboy Princess. Contrary to my expectations, due to her nickname, she was quite the thin, fragile-looking girl who looked like she might break if I touched her. She looked to be around ten to twelve years old. Her hair was platinum, and she was quite beautiful, despite her age. In time, she would become the gem of the Kingdom.

She had been placed in iron restraints and had her mouth bound. Luckily for her, she spent most of the experience in a sleep-like state due to a mountain of drugs they had been injecting her with. The only part of her that was damaged was her clothes, which had become quite filthy and torn after being held hostage.

After the safe return of the princess, I requested that I might be

given permission to take whatever I wanted from the organization's stash. Although I would have done so anyway, I thought I might as well ask first. I was given the OK and took several items, though most were of no use to me. The Boy Knight had discovered several documents within the Leader's personal study. If you look at the documents, it seems that the kidnapping of the Princess was planned. The details of her trip, her place of residence, and even her guard detail were in the documents we recovered. This certainly is becoming interesting.

Also, the boy forbid me from eating the men and insisted on cremation - What a bother.

The fact of this matter is that the kidnapping of the Princess was planned and that the Boy had to cooperate with a total stranger to retrieve the Princess. Now, the discoveries are being reported to the escort team. Sigh, this is losing it's worth quickly, though I'll tolerate it for now.

It seems that there will likely be a cover-up on the Princess' kidnapping.

Rather than there be calls for severe punishment and investigations for those responsible, it will be considered the mischief of the Tomboy Princess.

After this, I decided to do something I almost didn't want to do. I had the Illusion Lord use hypnosis on both the Boy Knight and the Tomboy Princess. I was interested in meeting the Royalty during the Boy Knight's report, and this was the easiest way to do so, as well as gain myself special privileges. Even so, its far too straight forward and I find it annoying.

After the process, the Boy Knight became as loyal to me as he was to the Princess, while the Princess thought of me as a special friend.

I also had their consciousness temporarily clouded while I ate all of the members of the organization.

Ability unlocked [Spider Yarn Web]

Ability unlocked [Poison Smoke Bomb]

Ability unlocked [Wiretapping]

Ability unlocked [Kidnap]

Well well, it looks like I managed to squeeze out even more from this mission. Before the sun rose in the morning sky, we withdrew from the hideout.

From the mansion, a torrent of flames rose up, destroying all of the evidence, including any truths that would be gained from the ashes.

After that I slept until noon. At that time the Boy Knight brought me a special reward for my services; he was presenting me with a letter from the Chamber of Commerce and a meeting with the Deputy Manager.

Tomorrow, I planned to depart from town.

Since the children of the next generation were going to be born soon, this return would only be temporary but necessary.

Oh, as for the rest of the day, Blacksmith-san took me shopping...

Day 100

Blacksmith-san and her escorts took me to the streets for a short stroll and to purchase some supplies for the return trip. I didn't mind the walk. Rather, I was glad for it.

It was late in the morning before we were ready for departure from the city. Well, that was our plan anyway.

I was ready to leave the inn for the convoy when the Boy Knight, followed by the Princess, stopped me for the purpose of another contract of some sort.

The beginnings of the discussion were pretty dry, so I'll spare the details, I'm not one for the pleasantries of nobility. The point was that the Princess was thanking me for saving her the previous day.

That said, the fact that I am an Ogre sitting next to a Princess holding a conversation is a pretty good ordeal if I had to say so. Thus, I decided to give this situation my utmost patience.

I looked over to see what the Boy Knight was carrying. In his arms was a bag half his size that rattled like the sound of gold coins. At that moment, I got a troubling premonition of what I was going to be asked to do for such a payment. I have to say that I was a bit on edge to hear what sort of mission they had for myself and my group.

Then, the Tomboy Princess stated what she wanted. She was worried about her safety, given that her escorts had previously failed to protect her, and wanted us to escort her back to the Royal Capital.

That idea sort of made me annoyed, given our current situation. There was quite a bit of gold, but several children were going to be born soon.

I was just about to leave when I was told that the bag of gold was only a down payment and that the reward would be a Gold Plate. Once I heard that it was worth one million gold coins, my mind was

set to help.

According to Redhead, you can take plates, such as silver plates given as quest rewards, to the royal capital where it can be traded for ten thousand gold coins.

To put it into terms that can be understood. I put a gold coin at around ten yen, so a silver plate is worth one-hundred thousand yen whereas this quest to escort the princess had a reward of ten million yen. I don't even have the slightest concern about taking the money of Royalty, even if it is taxpayer's money. The nobility just spends it on indulgences anyway.

That said, since the balance for the risk and reward is quite generous even if you put the plot against the Princess into consideration, it isn't a bad excuse to get into the royal capital.

Since I could always train the children as they were born, there shouldn't be any problems. Since the objective of our visit has already been achieved, I contemplated if we would be able to convince the Princess to allow us to drop off the non-combatant women at our settlement.

We waited an hour at the Demuki Gate as per the arrangement. When they did arrive, it was only the Boy Knight and the Princess. The Carriage was filled with various luxury goods to accommodate the Princess during her travels.

When I asked what became of her bodyguards, I was merely informed that they were suspected of plotting to aid in the kidnappings and were sent away separately after our contract was made.

When I pressed for further explanation, it seems that the two flat out ditched the escort team to come with us. Hearing this, I broke out in a cold sweat.

Honestly, the logic of these two gives me a major headache, but the contract was already made so there isn't any pulling out on it now. From now on, I just need to be vigilant.

Sigh This mission just got far more unreasonable.

After hearing this, I decided it was necessary to head to the royal capital as fast as possible. With my future war chest in mind, we set forth. For this mission, I am going to keep [Luck] and [Golden Rule] activated. Hopefully this prevents any further obstacles from obstructing this mission.

As we were going, I noticed pursuers chasing us. Once again, I pressed the two for more information. They told me that these people were some members of the escort team, along with a multitude of thugs.

When the pursuers had caught up, I was urged by the Princess to protect her.

This is the worst. I ended up having to slaughter all of them. This situation does not improve my civil appearance by any stretch of the imagination, though I can always pass the responsibility for the death of the escort team on to the Princess if the need ever presents itself.

I wonder how many days it will take before we reach the royal capital.

Since we needed to move at a constant rate, I moved the Princess' baggage in to my item box and left her carriage behind. The Princess was moved to my carriage because it was the safest location for her. Even so, the Princess apparently liked my shoulder, wanting to sit on it like a chair, she quietly sat there for quite some time.

The overall mood was not that bad, but my mind was on making sure the Princess arrives unharmed.

Hmmm, a tall Berserker with a girl on his shoulder... I think I've seen this from somewhere.

Day 101

We departed this morning as planned, though baby-sitting the Tomboy Princess has become troublesome in various ways. A large, gray chicken-type monster called the "Big Cocco" has made its lair in the general vicinity of the highway. It's likely that it's not even able to harm the Skeleton horse that is pulling the carriage, let alone most of the party.

The Princess has been causing some issues with the Sisters and Blacksmith-san recently. So far it has only been annoyances such as "You should bow down to me" to either Blacksmith-san or myself though. Naturally, this would end up being the case for someone raised in a manner such as a member of royalty. The fact that she is our client, however, prevents me from punishing her outright.

Getting back to the monster.

The Big Cocco, better known as a Misutenddo, is a small-fry monster that newbie adventurers tend to hunt for early level experience. However, a monster is a monster. If a young unarmed girl were to encounter it, they would not be able to beat it and remain unharmed.

I usually threatened the Princess by spreading one of the Misutenddo's wings in an attempt to rid myself of her constant attention, but I still find myself challenged by her tenacity.

In the end, I started to contemplate throwing her into some form of training to distract her from her constant attempts to trouble me. If I use some of my invisible abilities, I can probably ensure that she remains without any injuries if it's only a Misutenddo. Though, it still isn't without risks, and her losing an eye would not be an impossibility, which again would be less than desired.

I then thought of possibly putting her up against a Skeleton animal I could create; it's at a weak level, but with my current strength, there is always the risk that she would receive injuries. In the worst case

scenario, she could die.

Then, an incident where she tried to take on a Misutenddo with a kitchen knife occurred, where I had to intervene.

The behavior of the Princess is troublesome, even if it doesn't truly affect me personally.

But, it is the responsibility of an adult to scold children after they do something dangerous.

She tried to use her status as a member of the Royal family to avoid being scolded. I quickly squashed that plan by stating that her status had no effect on me. After making that clear, I began lecturing her about how, since she is a member of Royalty, she should have a refined level of discipline.

That said, bad behavior would be punished with a spanking for children, and good behavior rewarded with a pat on the head.

The only other person I'd possibly consider using this manner of treatment on would be Redhead, though the idea of a spanking for her might not be seen as a punishment...

At any rate, the information that I have received from the Boy Knight in regards to the Princess is quite lacking. That said, I find it safe to assume that she probably has some form of mysterious power or an important secret.

It is almost inconceivable, as one would never think that a royal family would have raised a child to have so little knowledge about this world. The Princess had a vague understanding of people, though her common sense was lacking. She was obviously not familiar with the risks involved with fighting monsters and would commonly approach them. It's similar to a child looking at a dog that they have only seen in books, thinking that it is safe to pet it because no one said it is dangerous.

While debating the subject of whether or not to shelter her until we get to the castle, I decided that it would be best if she could enjoy the outside world to the fullest. It might be something that she would no longer be able to do in her future, due to her status as a princess.

As the thought briefly passed through my mind, I immediately tossed away the more vile of my thoughts in an instant. Even if she would technically be far older than myself, she is something that is best not touched until she becomes a girl of age.

Though when she smiles, it is almost as if she is commanding me to smile back, and often, I will humor her, endearing her further to me.

Whenever she gets tired, she will come to my place, climb onto my back, and wait until I place her onto my shoulder. I've given up, at least to this extent. My shoulder seems to have become the special seat for this princess. It's not something that I really mind, she just keeps quiet mostly, fiddling with my hair and trying to act cute. I'll, at the very least, admit that she can be a nice child when she isn't out to cause trouble.

Now that I think about it, most of these outbursts are when I attempt to ignore her...

Good grief, I have to be careful, little girls often imprint on strong men... Dangerous...

I'll allow her to ride on my shoulder for now though. This despite the image of us two is perhaps a bit too noticeable. Various adventurers and merchants of various tribes who pass by our convoy on the highway always stare at me, or rather us, with surprised looks. Since the Princess is quite young, the need to provide some entertainment such as singing a traveling song is necessary to prevent her from growing bored and wandering off on her own. Like it or not, the amount of trouble she can get into on my shoulder is far less than if she was by herself...

Anyway. As for the location of the Boy Knight, Alchemist-san and Dhammi-chan have been teasing the poor boy with a multitude of various gestures. Given that neither of the girls are wearing their glasses, the poor boy has been their toy for more or less the entire day. They were having their fun with the innocent boy, not that I'd become jealous over something trivial like that.

Today we made camp off of the side of the highway.

Day 102

The Tomboy Princess and the Boy Knight attempted to participate in today's morning training. I wouldn't have much of an issue with just the Boy Knight attempting to participate, but the princess was also demanding to participate. What a pain. Their demands were such as "We also want to learn how to fight" or "Just try to fight us." I did my best to ignore this, but there is a limit.

Because there was no avoiding it, I had to think of something that the Princess could do without putting her, the client, in harms way. I mean, with a single finger I could cause her instant death, though I have no intention to do so.

Like it or not, I had already predicted this might happen and had made a request to the sisters to make some female training clothing for the Tomboy Princess.

I made sure to heavily imbue her clothing with heavy physical resistances. Even if I were to slap her lightly, there shouldn't be any injuries, even with her weak body. With that, I pitted the Boy Knight and the Tomboy Princess against each other. I already knew that the Boy Knight would hold himself back as much as possible for the Princess, so the risk against him is lower than anything else possible. Though the Princess may be getting the hang of using a wooden sword, she has a total lack of discipline. It really is a major issue that she probably isn't even aware of.

After the sparing started, it may have taken a while, but the Boy Knight began to fight back slightly. After watching his moves, it's obvious that there is too much of a reliance on his [Job] corrections.

Certainly, following a [Job]'s path will increase your abilities. Increasing the level by killing monsters and growing stronger is commonplace. Even so, based on his movements, this boy is a vanguard type, capable of a multitude of different actions. He certainly has the capability to fight evenly with a normal Ogre, though none of those exist here. Finally, it comes down to one's ability to

use the sword abilities that pertain to one's [Arts] and one's [Profession].

Naturally, one could easily become selfish if you only think about becoming stronger through experience, and in that way, many people have. But this boy seems too young to be affected by it and seems to be mentoring the Tomboy Princess, as well as going easy on his swings to make them easily defendable.

Even so, one could see that the Boy Knight was taking his job seriously. I was surprised at how hard he was drilling the Princess, she was covered with sweat and panting. It looked like she was enjoying it though, so I think it's probably a good thing in the long run.

The thought had dawned on me that the reasoning for his efforts were to ensure the Princess's safety in the future.

Well, the morning training is at an end. Dhammi-chan, Redhead, Wind Lord-chan and the Princess went to swim and wash off in a river nearby. For the moment, the men can simply wipe the sweat off until it's their turn, though the Princess seemed to want me to escort her to the river and keep watch. Sigh, can't be helped. At the very least, none of the other girls had an issue with my presence.

The river was clear and reflected the sky as an image upon the water's surface. The scenery of the entire location was quite nice as well, though the roads and plains of the Sternbild Kingdom were far more dangerous than the Forest. Still, there haven't been any monsters that are stronger than Hind Bears during our entire trip, so there was no need to worry.

We have already agreed that since the highway is the shortest route to take, it was obvious to travel down it to the Royal Capital.

According to the detailed map that the Boy Knight possessed, our forest was rather small, the tags for it on the map were Shirisuka Forest "Inhabited by a variety of monsters; it is famous for its large waterfall and hot springs". The map details locations such as the location of the Fomor tribes, a species of Giants, details on the craftsmen village we passed through on our way to the Fortress City Trient, and multiple mountain clusters. A multitude of dungeons were

also listed on the map. These dungeons also apparently caused a great deal of trouble for the surrounding areas, though it really isn't my problem unless someone wants to hire me, of course.

I start categorizing the map's locations as we progressed. There were several Boruforu, though as there weren't enough for the whole group, I didn't bother and let the familiars eat their fill. While looking at the map, I realized that we had taken Route 13 to get to the Fortress City Trient and are currently on Route 7, the shortest path towards the Royal Capital Osvel.

Ever since I accepted this mission, I had begun making plans for escaping the Royal Capital should anything go wrong. The worst case scenario would be that only myself and Ogakichi-kun would be able to survive. Dhammi and the Lord-classed members would have a chance, but with the full force of the [Royal Army], we might lose several key members in the escape. As such, I needed to keep vigilant and prepare for anything.

But for now, we are the escort team hired by the Princess to escort her to the Royal Capital. As long as we hold this title, there should be no risk to further attacks from would-be adventurers. I'm sure my imagination is going wild on the risks, but one can never be too cautious when approaching unknowns.

At any rate, I attempted to speak with the Boy Knight for awhile, but he wasn't too keen on speaking with me. It probably had something to do with the Princess currently having climbed back onto my shoulder again.

Anyway, we were making good progress towards our destination. Though the roads up ahead were pretty worn and showed signs of age. It really wasn't a problem in particular.

Day 103

We arrived at the Shirisuka Forest this morning. In this place, there are animals that I haven't eaten yet. This prospect got me quite excited.

There are several beast species and insect species around a huge lake and river system deep within the forest. From this, many of the species of this forest are amphibian.

Of the species that I heard were within this forest, there were:

Red Lizard that had red claws and scales that burned with a high heat.

Guriforundo A cheetah-like creature that shoots red flames from both its tail and claws.

Kelpie A slimy frog-like horse with light-blue scales that had both hind legs and a thick tail - quite the interesting creature.

Crystal Crocodile A creature about eight meters in length with skin and fangs made of quartz crystals.

Ness Frog A yellow frog species with poisonous patterns that had shades of purple.

Rock-turtle Frog A creature that possesses a head with a lightweight turtle shell similar to rock on it.

Silent Mosquito A silent mosquito type that sucks blood, about ten centimeters in size.

Shell Grasshopper A high speed insect that randomly attacks without much reason.

This time, I plan to scour for them directly. I wanted this to be quick, so I released Kumajiro and Kurosaburo while sending several others out as well. While we progressed, there were several times where we captured the new creatures, though eating them did not give me

any new abilities.

Next were a Silent Mosquito and several Shell Grasshoppers, followed by a Ness Frog all in succession to attack us. It was a flock of several animal species, because of that, I was able to kill them all and eat them. I have to admit, I was slightly greedy and ate the entire body, not saving any materials.

It may just be icing on the cake, but the most troublesome of all of the monsters was, surprisingly, the small Shell Grasshoppers.

To clarify, the only real way to capture them was to receive them head on by reinforcing my body with several abilities, or to avoid them and allow individuals with keen eyes to catch them mid flight such as Dhammi-chan. There were several instances where these type of attacks grew near the non-combatants such as Blacksmith-san and the Tomboy Princess, though since the speed of the attack is nothing if I get serious, there have yet to be problems. Yet, even saying that, it is still quite troublesome.

This time around, the Shell Grasshoppers were quite small in size and few in number. They also started attacking the Skeleton horses, though the hardness of these specific Skeletons is of a level that these Grasshoppers could not damage them. That said, even upon collision, the hardness of the Grasshoppers themselves to withstand the impact at such high speeds is quite something. I suppose one might even be able to use these creatures as some sort of ammunition.

In fact, they are pretty useful things to use. If you were to have a large amount of these grasshoppers as ammunition, you could fire them at the walls, and in most instances, the walls would be destroyed. With the walls destroyed, the city could be ravaged and turned into a city of flames quite easily. Though for now, my interests lie with raising the new generation and gaining ties to the Royal Family of the Sternbild Kingdom.

The monsters we caught made a delicious lunch. We also caught a Ness Frog, but since the level of poison was probably high, only I would be able to eat it. Though there is the possibility that Redhead could have a little due to [Job - Noir Soldier].

Though, it isn't impossible to detoxify the poison of the Ness Frog, so I let Redhead have a little.

With that, I ate a large amount of materials that we had collected over the past few hours.

Ability unlocked [Epidemic Scatter]

Ability unlocked [Disease Carrier]

Ability unlocked [Burning Claw]

Ability unlocked [Refractory Mucus Secretion]

Ability unlocked [Plague Infection]

Ability unlocked [Hard-Head]

Ability unlocked [Head-Butt]

Ability unlocked [Silent Flight]

Ability unlocked [Weak Intimidation]

Ability unlocked [Variable Temperature Weakness]

The Ness frog meat was so tender that it practically melted with softness in my mouth. Even the taste of the Shell Grasshopper's was unexpectedly delicious, and their crunchiness was enjoyable.

Although human beings like Blacksmith-san claimed that it is pretty difficult to eat certain creatures, especially insects, Looking at me eating pretty much anything no matter the hardness was simply not something they could do. Thinking that, I had a little grin slip out, but that was all.

Delicious things are delicious. Mixing some of these items with rice would have been amazing. The vitality of these creatures simply oozed from the meat, making it all the more enjoyable.

The Kelpie meat was quite similar to horse meat, but there were subtle differences in taste. Though somewhat different, the subtle changes in taste weren't bad, simply delicious.

During the meal, several topics had risen and fallen.

In the middle of our discussions, suddenly a Crystal Crocodile shot out from the river behind me.

It is no foolish animal and understands the danger of the prey, thus it was waiting for the moment where it believed we were most vulnerable. It is certainly the king of the water within this forest.

The mouth boasts such enormity that not even an Ogre could compete with it. A Crystal Crocodile is ranked higher in strength than a normal Ogre, and there are several instances where a Crystal Crocodile has managed to kill several Ogres at once.

However, this surprise attack failed since I was aware of its presence the entire time.

Without even the slightest bit of panic, with【Sense Presence】, I did not even have to look behind me to gauge my opponent. I grabbed my halberd. In an instant, it was thrust in to the mouth of the beast, and the ability [Triple Strike] was activated. Faster than lightning, as if I had used an invisible blade, the monster was drilled with holes and instantly killed. At that point, I set out to collect its materials and began to slowly smoke its meat; the smell of the meat was enough to water the mouth. With the meat already semi cooked from the lightning from my halberd, it was quick to finish cooking.

Since the Crystal Crocodile's materials can sell for a fairly expensive price, I decided I would keep a large amount of it for sales later. Though, recently, I have let Dhammi-chan and Redhead manage it so that they could improve their dissembling skills. After I gathered some materials for myself, I left the rest to them. The meat I took was from the tail, as many reptile's most valuable meat is in the tail.

Yeah, it was amazing. Gravy from the juicy meat filled my mouth, with that, my appetite grew several times greater, my body also feels amazing from the energy gained from such meat.

Ability learned: [Crystal Crocodile's Armored Hide]

Ability learned: [Crystal Crocodile's Sharp Fangs]

Ability learned: [Predator of the Water]

Body and abilities enhanced at once, this is something that I was most pleased about.

I was satisfied and gave off a smile.

In this state, the Princess stared at me with a perplexed face.

It was something due to why I was so interested in hunting down so many different species, and why most of them target me specifically.

My answer was simply because I wanted to kill them, they wanted to kill me. Or something like that.

To kill and be killed, the stronger surviving and growing stronger. If there is a strong enemy, fight and kill that enemy to grow stronger. I eat them because I grow hungry, and that by eating them, I grow stronger. This is the law of nature, to which I comply with fully.

I avoid mentioning the fact that I eat everything to gain new abilities. In a sense, it is my responsibility having killed them to take their abilities. It almost seems like a ritual of mine at this point, no one of the group pays it any mind by now. Though thinking about it, my eating of the shells of my prey does appear weird to a normal eye.

After my explanations, the Princess became silent as if she was thinking about something; she even doned an amazed facial expression. I had mentioned that we all change as we grow stronger. It seemed that she was lost in thought around that point.

Well, it's probably not something along the lines of her growing suspicious of me, because she still happily rides on my shoulder.

For now, we kill any monsters that approach us and proceed through the forest.

Today's synthesis results:

【Dissonance】 + 【Panic Voice】 = 【Death Voice】

【Shell Defense】 + 【Shell Retreat】 + 【Adamantine Spider's Strong Carapace】 = 【Indestructible Castle Shell】

【Conceal Presence】 + 【Recognition Obstruction】 + 【Sneaking】 = 【Recognition Difficulty】

【Surging Combat Instinct】 + 【Survival Instinct】 = 【Berserker Mode】

Day 103 Sidestory: Kumajirou's POV

Kumajirou.

Kuma~ went food hunting with the master.

Kuma~ was so excited. Like going to the forest for the first time.

It's Kuma~'s first time to catch so many preys.

Kuma~ returned home carrying the red lizards on my back like a horse, and then master gave compliments to Kuma~.

Kurosaburou and Kuma~ hunts more when we are together, Kurosaburou and Kuma~ got more compliments.

Kurosaburou and Kuma~ did our best today.

Master gave Kuma~ a lot compliments.

Kuma~ is stuffed with delicious foods.

Since Kuma~ became sleepy, Kuma~ sleep in the bone house.

When I was sleeping, it became warm. Kuma~ felt hot.

Kuma~

[Kumajirou level Increased]

[Kumajirou's collaboration with Kurosaburou became better]

[Kumajirou firmly grew larger and stronger]

Day 104

By the time the sun first broke over the horizon, we had already arrived at a Mason Village shortly after passing through the forest. Well, since I'm an Ogre, there will normally be a large level of disgust and resentment because this village is mainly consists of humans. Though with the Tomboy Princess sitting on my shoulder, the caution subsided by quite a bit. They probably assumed I was a pet or something.

The Princess has a magic ring with an engraved seal that she once told me is the symbol of the Royal Family. It is also impossible to be equipped by anyone outside of the Royal Family. It cannot be removed once equipped, and projects a powerful curse upon the wearer's enemies in the area should a Royal Family member be slain.

Because of this ring, she is able to give orders to the villagers.

To my surprise, it was a magnificent village that had many citizens and tourists. All of whom bowed their heads as we walked by in honor of the Princess.

This tradition apparently goes back to a tradition similar to that of Samurai in respects to their masters.

It was then that I found myself invited to the Village Chief's house within the village where I decided to spend the night. The Chief and his wife still had fearful expressions from my appearance, so I took out some fruits and mushrooms from <<Shirisuka Forest>> and offered them as gifts.

I tried to talk with them casually as I played with Kumajirou and Kurosaburou.

At any rate, it took some time, but I managed to ease the tension and began discussing minor matters of the village with him.

Conversations like this are important for developing a public image,

after all.

After doing this for around two hours, they have finally relaxed to my presence. I was invited by the Chief to allow him to be my guide to the waterfall, which is the specialty of the village.

To be honest, that was my original plan, so I was pleased to have him guide me there.

Since I'm in no rush to bathe in the hot spring, I'll first visit the waterfall.

It was located down a small path not too far from the village. The waterfall itself is massive, as if the water was falling down from heaven. In front of this scene, we gazed at the sight unconsciously. The large waterfall that poured down from the top nearly two hundred meters above in the sky. The Chief informed us of the details. Though for the most part I took my time to enjoy this incredible view of natural beauty.

Even so, with 【Sense Presence】 I detected several massive and mighty creatures lying dormant within the waterfall, but I was not sure of their nature.

I decided it was best to ask the village Chief of what I had seen.

It turns out that the creatures I had seen were some form of guardian, a boss species of the Big Coccos. It was generally friendly if you don't attack it. There also seems to be a dragon-class monster within there as well, but it is usually sleeping quietly.

Although I find myself heavily tempted to fight these monsters, I restrain these feelings in the back of my mind. Furthermore, even if I utilize all of my current skills, it still seems highly likely that it is impossible to overcome these creatures at present.

While still thinking of returning to fight these creatures one day, I decided to immerse myself in the famous hot spring.

The party was booked under the name of the Royal Family.

I requested that both Dhammi-chan and Kazeoni-san (Wind Lord-

san) to escort the Princess to the hot spring. Therefore, even if assassins surrounded them, they would either eliminate the threat or hold out long enough for me to close the distance and come to their aid.

With the safety of the Princess taken care of, I was able to enjoy the hot spring without reserve. The Mason village's hot spring, just like the ones we have at our settlement, has pleasantly hot water.

Because I missed the hot springs of our settlement, I will absolutely return there once this mission is over.

There are also various changes and improvements to the settlement that I want to make once I return. There are still tons of things that need to be done.

I got out of the hot spring after an hour or so and returned to the Village Chief's house.

While I was out, Kurosaburo and Kumajiro had gathered a large number of Kelpie, Boruforu, Blade Rabbits and Horn Rabbits. They busily worked to draw the blood from them so the villagers could cook them.

I will certainly be complimenting them and playing with them for their efforts later. They will receive a large amount of meat as well.

Since there was such a large quantity of meat, I told the Village Chief to share the meat to the whole village to eat. As a result, the whole village gathered at the banquet hall that night to have a feast. The darkness soon faded to the glow of bonfires set up everywhere throughout the village.

Villagers sat and ate meat with travelers, sharing and drinking the local liquor without hesitation. Soon, everyone became excited and began to dance and sing.

Redhead, Dhammi-chan and Blacksmith-san all decided to stir up the atmosphere by inviting a male villager to dance. I watched them dance with pleasure. I'm not one to get jealous that easily though, but a little jealousy was fine for this. It didn't bother me too much since it was more of a form of greeting than anything else.

Even now, at the age of 60, the Village Chief was still participating in a village drinking contest, stating that he refused to lose to any of the youngsters, especially when it came to the liquor of his own village. The Liquor was inferior to elf wine, but delicious none the less.

I gave the Village Chief a small sample of Elf wine and he gasped with a sound of amazement. It simply cannot be helped; Elf wine is just that good. The Chief continued to compete with the younger villagers with a big smile, draining several barrels of liquor in the process.

It was about two hours after the banquet had begun when one of the more drunken villager's who could no longer think straight went up to Dhammi-chan and grabbed her behind thoroughly. I only managed to barely make it in time before the furious Dhammi-chan could finish beating the man to death. I gave him some treatment to make sure he wouldn't die from his injuries, but left him to a certain extent as punishment. The injury to his abdomen was not great enough to burst his organs, but the force was quite intense.

The next time an incident like this occurs, she might very well tear someone's head off, so I really need to calm her down. I gave her a hug to calm her down. After all, it's quite the embarrassment for Dhammi-chan to be so thoroughly touched on such a sensitive region by another man. Killing him would sate her anger quickly, but in the present situation, it is not wise to allow such.

I whispered lightly in her ear that she must not kill the man. That said, if this incident happens again from the same man, I might make the request to string his organs out myself, but for now, the situation has been dissolved.

Suddenly, I realized that the entire venue of villagers had been filled with silence. Redhead had a hand on her forhead and had since then dropped to her knees with a "Fuee".

In order to change this tense atmosphere that has developed, I pulled out several barrels of liquor and challenged the villagers to a drinking contest. If anyone managed to defeat me I would give the winner four silver plates, roughly forty thousand gold coins if it were

to be converted.

All of the male villagers came forth with great confidence after hearing the news about the reward.

The atmosphere of the village suddenly changed in its entirety, with the past incident fully forgotten.

What can I say, when talking about forty thousand gold coins, it is quite the huge amount of wealth for a village of this level. To put it into perspective, for a village of this size, it could sustain the lives of every member of the village for just over two weeks.

That's probably why their eyes changed. They probably thought I would be defeated through sheer force of numbers. They already had seen me drinking with the Village Chief, thinking that they could push me into becoming drunk.

All the while, the Princess sat on my shoulder the entire time, silently and enjoying the festivities. Even with her there, I drank with not only villagers but the tourists and visitors. The Princess ordered everyone to have fun as well as for me not to lose to anyone. Well, even without that, I might have overdone it a bit.

Let's only get to the result. I took on nearly every male and some females of the village and those visiting and never lost once. I may have grown... Just a bit drunk, but I haven't blacked out since I'm still an Ogre. I'm quite the profiteering individual if I do say so myself, this level of excitement is always nice though.

While snacking on some of the food I managed to pick up some new abilities,

Ability unlocked [Water Battle Formation]

Ability unlocked [Blade Bone Generation]

Ability unlocked [Tough Skin]

Ability unlocked [Sharp Horn Generation]

After several more hours of the festivities, things started to die down a bit.

I was able to sleep quite soundly tonight. I also found a great excuse to drink my fill of alcohol for the first time in quite a while.

The girls also took part in the drinking contest, so all of us were buzzed before bed. I doubt anyone minded though...

Day 105

We left the Mason Village in the morning.

I wanted to proceed towards the den of the Fomor clan as soon as possible.

The Fomors are a giant class monster.

Nothing that special happened on our travels. We just traveled, and after some light training in the afternoon, we slept.

We'll be setting foot on Fomor Mountain tomorrow morning.

Hopefully...

Day 106

This morning, the Sisters started to show the signs of their pregnancy.

Unlike human children, children born with the blood of an Ogre have a much faster growth rate than humans. The chance of the baby being a human, however, is quite unlikely, but it has happened before.

Both of their stomachs had suddenly swollen this morning. That much was clear.

I contacted Gobujii directly at the settlement.

When I asked what should be done, he said, "When the mother with an Ogre child in her belly has her belly swell, it means that, in a short while, the baby will have grown big'n ready for birth. In the case of an Ogre child, it's most likely born the same way a human child would be, but an Ogre child is twice the size of a human child. If the human body is too small, the child might force its way out through the belly"

Hearing this, my face quickly turned pale. I quickly sent several Skeletons in a hurry to search for an ideal place for the Sisters to rest. Since this is an emergency. I refuse to be bothered about the Princess and left her with the Boy Knight. Though the Princess is young, she seemed to understand the gravity of the situation and was very quiet.

Dhammi-chan, Redhead, Alchemist-san and Blacksmith-san were quite hard to encourage when they were seeing the Sisters suffering like this. During the move, the Sisters quickly became visibly skinny and frail from having their nutrients sucked by the children in the womb. I quickly gave them my Blood Elixir to drink and gave them parts of my flesh. While they were reluctant to eat my flesh, I forced them to eat it regardless. It had an outstanding effect and certainly bought us some time.

After roughly thirty minutes, a Skeleton returned with the location we required. While providing emergency treatment, we followed the Skeleton into a cave within a Cluster of Mountains. We quickly rushed inside.

In an instant, I vaporized the creatures of the cave, killing without a single thought on my mind.

Due to the scent of fresh blood in the air, the Fire and Illusion Lords guarded the entrance while Wind Lord-chan investigated the cave to ensure nothing lurked beneath.

Everyone was very quiet due to this situation. Not even Kumajiro or Kurosaburo made a single sound.

I laid the Sisters, who were in great pain from their pregnancy, in a bed I built. I then focused on replenishing the energy that is being directly absorbed by the children in their abdomens.

Redhead and the other girls could do nothing but watch. They were speechless.

The two girls quickly began to grow very heavy due to the children growing within them.

The pain is caused by the rapid changes in their bodies, their abdomens have grown to be so swollen that their skin seemed as if it would tear if it got any bigger.

I try to cure them with every skill I have, I was fully committed to prevent their stomachs from exploding.

The pain these two are feeling is suppressed to some extent by infusing my Elixir blood with an anesthesia, even though it can only do so much. The two are still in substantial pain.

Since this is my first time dealing with a situation like this, especially since these are my own children, sweat beads on my forehead and flows endlessly.

Time slows down all around me; I have no idea how much time could have passed. An hour? Ten hours or more might pass and I would

not know. How long will their pregnancy last? I have no idea and all I want is to help them survive.

I managed to finish developing the fetuses, soon, our children begin to struggle to be born and both of the Sisters are tormented beyond reason.

Their screams become very loud, causing the rest of the girls to grow very pale.

I subjected the Eldest Sister with an incredibly powerful anesthesia. I then cut her belly open with a scalpel covered with a bactericidal effect that was created with [Top Brace Embodied] and activated [Soul Fixture].

Seeing what I was doing, they let out a very short scream "Hiii-" but quickly covered their mouths to avoid distracting me.

A Cesarean Section.

I demanded Dhammi-chan come next to me and prepare to pull out the little girl covered in blood from the belly. As this process continues, I pour immense amounts of my blood into the sister while using healing abilities to repair all of the damage. A large pool of blood forms on the ground. Recovery skills being issued one after another, soon the wound was healed without leaving a single scar on the abdomen of the Eldest sister.

My child… Dhammi-chan handed her to me and I quickly bathed her. Cheerful cries echo through the cave. Just as I took my first sigh of relief, the Younger Sister began to suffer greatly. I repeat the same process again, and safely remove a boy from the Younger Sister.

The echoing cries of a young boy and little girl rang throughout the cave, and my vision suddenly started to blur.

Everyone was greatly relieved that both of the Sisters survived. Both my and Dhammi-chan's hands were shaking violently after such an experience.

I barely had the physical strength left to hold my new born children in my arms. After a moment, I hand them both over to each of the

sisters. After several minutes, the children already began to desire breast milk.

I felt sky high. I, Ogarou, after living for one hundred and six days, have just become a father of two children. It was probably too early, given how young I am, even for a Ogre. Oh, I sometimes forget, 107 days ago I was twenty-five years old and a human. That actually puts me at a suitable age for a father.

Although for children, both of them were half Ogre half Human, or [Ogre Mix-blood].

If the human parent is genetically strong, there is the chance of a [High-Ogre] or a child born with human characteristics. They will be slightly weaker than an Ogre child and seem like a human, but the genes for the child are divided equally, and merely falls in favor of the human characteristics. They are quite powerful on their own, and have greater intelligence than most Ogres.

However, there is the rare case of one in a million that a rare tribe is born. This race is called [Chaos species].

For me, I inherited the Ogre strength and my human mind, so I'm an Ogre, but not quite an Ogre, that is how I should probably think.

To summarize the information from Gobujii and the others, this child can obtain both [Jobs] and [Rank-up] as I can. Meaning they have access to nearly all of my benefits. They will truly become powerful when they grow up.

According to Gobujii, they also have access to [Evolution Rank Up], this is apparently a very powerful and rare occurrence that will give them access to extinct branches of the Goblin Rank up tree.

It is a very powerful thing if you ever access it. Hearing this I grow quite excited myself.

But, since they are not human and not quite Ogre, there is a great risk that they could be killed if they were to be discovered. According to Gobujii, in the past, whenever the birth of a Human-Ogre child was discovered, parties were raised to slay the creature before it could develop..

Half breeds with monster races are taboo, it would seem.

There is also the risk that the human part is consumed by the Ogre half, but that only happens in rare cases.

In the worst case scenario and I were to be killed, these children could survive in human society due to them being half human. Once they are born and able to defend themselves, as well as proving to not be of the Chaos breed, there won't be high risk of being attacked.

There have been kings and warlords in the past who, in human society, could easily have been half breeds. Powerful beings of the past that used their power to carve out realms of their own, and their pasts swept up by time. These kings could be the product of an Evolution-up.

Something that very few could even hope to achieve in their entire lifetime.

This gets my thoughts rolling as to the strength and power generated from such a rank-up.

What wondrously frightening power.

By the way, all of us had started out as Goblins and then became as we are through multiple Rank-ups. The idea that these children are as they are is quite abnormal.

It was something that was beyond our common sense, so I inquired Gobujii about it.

While returning to the conversation, it would appear that Gobujii is also not too sure as to why this is the reason, making the joke that we should kill them before disaster struck, or something of that nature. It would seem that his previous knowledge was from Goblins born from humans having such abilities, such a thing as a child being ranked up from birth was never seen before, at least during his time.

There wasn't even a speck of thought within me that would consider killing my children. They are amazing creatures that have been born to me. I fully plan to raise them to the best of my abilities. I don't

plan to coddle them a single bit though. They will be given full Spartan training beyond anything that I would even put Ogakichi-kun through once they grow up in a few days. They are my children, as such, they will be treated as such, with the harshest struggles for survival imaginable.

In the future, I might even consider dividing the group into mix-blood groups that have special abilities. It might be useful later. Our mercenary group will, one day, be branching out into different fields, so preparation and thought are always necessary. Though, for now, I will put these thoughts in the recesses of my mind.

I'm a father. I simply stand there as my children sit with their mother's suckling.

On their foreheads there were some blackish brown skin where a red tattoo in the exact same pattern as mine is engraved.

On the back of my daughter's right hand is an [Ogre Orb] of gold while on the back of the left hand of my son was a [Ogre Orb] of Silver. As I'm also an ogre of a mix of human and Ogre blood, I wonder if I will ever develop an orb.

This topic, I'll examine later.

My daughters will be lovely and beautiful, full of strength and majesty. My sons will be fearless, powerful and wise. I shall play the role of the mighty yet doting father. Ah, having children will certainly be interesting.

I begin to take measurements of my children. My daughter is roughly seventy centimeters, while my son is clearly greater than eighty centimeters. With this size, the risk of them bursting out of the Sister's bellies was no joke.

If I had not been here, the sisters would have died and been eaten by the children.

Though, such talk is best avoided since they did not die and are still with us.

The girls simply praise the exhausted Sisters while they come to

terms with the latest events.

While these children are said to be taboo children, I declared right there that these children will be allowed to grow and grow, to become powerful and follow their father in many adventures and battles for survival.

With that, the Sisters let out a sigh of relief.

Though there is still a little anxiety, the Sisters were still having complex thoughts about willingly having an Ogre's child after all. I make vows with each of them that I will continue to grow stronger and defend my children.

Goodness, I sound like some sort of heroic figure...

After the children finished feeding, I will embrace them again with all of my caring. Next in the holding order, is Dhammi-chan. Normally it is not wise to be hugging the children as soon as they are born, but these children are my own, and my blood flows through them.

Their race is beyond that of just being human.

There was no problem with them being hugged a little when they are first born.

I wrapped them in blankets made out of my yarn and passed them to the girls.

They cried while away from their mothers, but they quickly calmed down.

The final one to hold the children was the Princess, who until now, had been quietly staring at the situation from the wall of the cave.

After I looked over towards her, she came over and climbed onto my shoulder.

The Princess was now holding one of the children with both of her hands. For the first time, the child jitters slowly falls asleep in the Princess' arms.

It was small, but I certainly saw a smile for a moment.

This whole episode might have been a good experience for the Princess.

After all of the excitement, I think all of us could use the rest.

Spending the children's first day sleeping in a cave is just how I spent my first day.

As I thought that, it began to rain outside, so it might be good just to stay.

Today I fell asleep between the Sisters, our children between us.

For the time being, the daughter will be named Auro, and my son will be named Argento.

The mix of their colors was quite interesting to say the least.

I wonder what the cause of that would be.

Just as I thought that, I drifted off to sleep.

Day 107

Even after I woke up, the rain was still coming down hard.

Since that was the case, we had no real choice but to spend the day in the cave.

Fortunately for us, the cave was quite wide and spacious. After I spent some time expanding it to suit our needs, there weren't any problems at all.

Since I also had enough food in my item box to feed the entire settlement for a week, food was not going to be an issue.

The rain stopped around mid afternoon, but shortly thereafter, it began to snow. The wind was quite strong, and because of the previous rain, the roads were in poor condition so proceeding would be a bad idea.

That said, it would be better for the sisters to take another day to recover and spend time with their children.

Tomorrow, the weather should be better.

Having made that decision, Blacksmith-san and I decided to kill our spare time in a variety of activities...

Dhammi-chan started reading some of her novels to the Tomboy Princess.

Redhead started to train with Fire Lord-kun and the Boy Knight. Every now and then, the Princess takes a break from her reading sessions to participate as well.

Blacksmith-san took out her blacksmith's tools and started to work with some spirit stones. She passed off a wink over to me, which I thought was very cute.

Alchemist-san took out her own tool set and began to develop some new drugs for use.

The Sisters are with Auro and Argento, still fast asleep, which I wouldn't blame them for either.

As for myself, I headed out of the cave, alone...

I left the two male Lords in charge of watching the cave entrance with the female one to help Dhammi-chan tend to the Sisters if they need anything.

I had decided to hunt, because I really had nothing better to do.

The location I decided to hunt monsters in was the <<Cluster Mountains>>

Since this also doubled-up as scouting the area before we progressed, there wasn't any problem with doing so.

I was progressing in the snow storm without much difficulty.

I wore a rain poncho and trousers made from the Cuckoo's skin purchased from the Fortress City Trient that had a very high water resistance. I combined it with [Null Cold Damage], [Aqua Resistance] and [Complete Wind Resistance].

The weather barely affected me at all. Combined with me being an Ogre, I'd assume it wouldn't be much of an issue anyway.

Normally, finding prey would be difficult in this sort of environment. However, using 【Sense Presence】, I can detect signs and tracks to track them down. I decided to track the animals that hid from me first.

The first set of tracks I found were from the bear that I had destroyed earlier in the cave where everyone is staying at.

The bear wasn't in much shape for eating, though that species wouldn't have any abilities I haven't gained already.

After that, there was a pair of tracks leading to a cave nearby.

In the cave was a pair of bears, one male and one female, the female was obviously pregnant.

The male was bearing its tusks in my direction in an attempt to

defend its mate and child. Usually I'd have just killed all of them and eaten them, but since I just became a father myself, I hesitated to kill the pregnant female. The female wouldn't run away if I killed the male either.

Because I really wasn't in the mood, I pretended not to see the cave. Since I can easily track these bears, it wouldn't be hard to find several more. Though I have to admit, I did try to incite the male bear to attack me. It wouldn't be my fault if the male decided to abandon its mate to try and take me. However, when it began to attack me I unconsciously used [Intimidation of the Strong].

The male stopped and retreated to the cave.

Sigh, I suppose you really do have to cherish the life you are given.

After searching in the snow for a while, I found another bear - only a male this time. There would be no mercy. I decided I wouldn't use my abilities and readied my Halberd.

Although it is inferior to the Lord of the Forest, its four arms were quite bothersome and powerful, making it a fitting opponent.

In the end, I cut the arms off one by one, then cut its head off and ate it whole.

Ability unlocked [Bristle Guard]

I wandered further in to the mountains, looking for my next prey. The next thing I encountered was something like a deer, a monster about five meters in stature.

It was pure white with muscles quite developed like that of a leopard. While it looks like a deer, it is obviously a carnivore. It stands tall and gives off the aura of a champion.

As for the rest of its characteristics, it was enormous, similar to that of a giant. It was covered in white hair that gave off a faint glow from the snow and the slight rays of sunlight beating down on it.

It was as if the heavens itself were stating that this beast was divine.

It was as if it was a painting of a majestic spirit.

Without even having to see the front of the beast, I can easily tell this is the boss of the <<Cluster Mountains>>. It's the giant of the giant race [Fomori], the living embodiment of the earth. It has been told to me that the Fomorians are an existence that is stronger than any normal boss monster of a forest or mountain range, and this one stands at the pinnacle of all of them.

Discovering this great beast, I know that I must fight it no matter the cost. Now, I begin to pick from my near three hundred abilities.

My senses and body are greatly enhanced, I clad myself in my [Red Bear Beast King's Prestige]. I wield my halberd and the Shuyari. With these prepared, I turned to face this great beast.

This beast may be killed instantly, but in the case it isn't, I'll need to use everything I have just to survive. This is an opponent that I have almost no chance of winning against. Its sheer presence is of that level.

I put my chances of winning at 30 percent. In other words, I put my chances of being killed at 70 percent.

My chances of winning against the Lord of the Forest when I was a hobgoblin were more than twice the chances now. I'm overflowing with cold sweat, the premonition of death sweeping over my entire body. But this is something that I must do.

The white beast noticed me in the corner of its eye. Shaking it's head side to side, both of its antlers fell to the ground with a thud. The action puzzled me, and in that one moment, my focus had broken, a major mistake.

Then, before I could even realize my mistake, the Great Beast suddenly pummeled the ground, causing the ground to ripple, and I myself fell to the ground. In an instant, the Great Beast was towering over me. My heart sank.

It stares at me for several moments. Then, in an instant, it begins moving rapidly away.

I could not understand why, but I was given a second chance, I need to strengthen my vigilance even more.

I gathered it's antlers for later and began my pursuit.

Proceeding after the White Stag, my senses were heightened to their maximum. I moved as fast as I could, but in a single leap, the earth would shake and the beast would be dozens of meters away.

Such extraordinary speed. This chase continued for some time without an end in sight, but as if growing tired of my chase, the beast seemed to activate an ability.

None of my trap-detection abilities except for my [Intuition] set off, warning me that I was about to die. In that moment, I had no choice.

I fled.

But my end never came, I turned back to see the Great Beast simply staring at me in the distance.

Total defeat. I lost without throwing a single blow.

At the very least, I will be able to return to my children. I also decided that I would give these antlers to them as gifts, since I did not earn them in a fight, I had no real right to eat them.

With that, I start walking the mountain to find something else to target.

While I was walking, I found a White Slime lurking in the snow.

The slime was somewhat gray in appearance. The magic system it had seemed to increase its hardness and made it hard to hit. It also had a resistance to physical attacks.

I wonder what sort of resistances this species has.

Thinking that, I take another look.

I didn't even try to kill it. I just bent down and sipped it like jelly.

The only news to me was that it improved the effectiveness of my resistance. What a shame.

It's time to go home.

On my way back, I heard a faint noise mixed in the sound of the snowstorm. I could also detect minor vibrations in the ground. From the distance, these impacts are quite intense.

After sharpening my senses, I decided to head in the direction of the sounds and vibrations.

I'm quite curious after all.

After getting near the origin, the vibrations intensified, and I could distinctly make out the sounds of a battle. Apparently, someone is fighting with something. Taking a higher level of caution I decided to approach closer. I needed to take caution in case I needed to retreat. Since I don't know what form of battle this is, if it's a battlefield between two sides, I cannot get involved, or risk having several dozens of enemies surge upon me from both sides.

With my curiosity building, I proceed down the mountain road. The snow seems to be intensifying, but I proceeded anyway.

I traveled for several minutes. Suddenly, several objects entered my【Sense Presence】, four small blue points and two yellow points. Near them is one massive red point, four large silver points and one point I could not clearly identify.

It was jumbled and pretty hard to discern.

As I approached the location, there were intense sounds of mortal combat in the air. The thunderous sounds were almost as if the world was constantly under an earthquake, shaking violently.

I continued advancing until I reached a clearing on the edge of a cliff. There, the battle had been unfolding. As I had imagined, a fierce battle has been raging.

As I approached, I saw a group of six, four humans and two demi-humans. On the field were also several giants, one substantially larger than the others and had the aura of a great leader.

That said, the other beasts seemed to be normal Fomorians. Their head's are similar to that of a goat. They have fiery eyes and a stalwart upper body with a tail similar to that of a snake. Their lower

body is that of a goat, wrapped in black fur. In each of their hands was a massive club-shaped rock fit for their size and use.

The Fomorians made up the silver points. It appears that the Red point was the leader of the group. I decided to call him the Giant King.

As I had said, the other party were four humans and two beast people. To briefly describe them, the first human was a blonde, blue-eyed swordsman who was quite youthful. There was a heavily armored shield warrior, a beautiful clergywoman with her hand on a Bible, and a beautiful magician chanting spells. There was also a stunning girl with an amazing bust holding a massive spear. For a moment, I was taken in by her looks. She had the ears of a cat and a long tail. The final individual of note was a beautiful girl, with two fuzzy ears and a tail, holding a massive bow.

There were only two males and four women. For the men, their odds were good and well planned. While their battle composition was also good, their choice in team members was excellent, my opinion of them was quite high.

The Swordsman and Spearwoman charge in as the vanguard while being guarded by defensive spells from the clergywoman and the Magician covers their flanks with magical aid and recovery magic while the Archer moves throughout the battlefield giving covering fire.

The entire battle was stunning.

These humans were fully engaged with several beasts, including a unique beast that had a powerful aura.

Looking closer, the humans are forcing the giants back, though however slowly.

Their formation is incredibly advanced and had a sophisticated pattern. These people were obviously elites.

Honestly, it's not hard to admit that these individuals fight very well. On the battlefield, they hardly rely on their levels, [Arts] or their [Job], using their natural fighting abilities to fight. In particular, the movements of the Swordsman were remarkable. Among the party,

his agility and bravery stood out as the leader.

To try and put them in order, their leader stands far beyond the rest of the group. Behind him are the two beast people. The other three are quite good, but not nearly the same level of ability.

Just then, the party managed to collapse one of the Fomorians and deal massive damage before support came from two other Fomorians. That Fomorian might not survive that sort of damage, but it will take some time before it dies. If both sides don't wear each other out, I'll just wait until a chance to slay the weakened Formorian and stash it into my item box to eat later.

Just as it seemed that the humans were making progress, the Giant King stepped in and sent a shock-wave that knocked the human party off balance. In that instant, the humans lost quite a bit of ground, but with the swordsman's actions, they were able to recover. Though they were getting forced back now, the Giant King seemed to no longer have any patience for these humans and was trying to finish it.

To share my feelings, if it were only Fomorians, these humans would have had a good chance, but in this situation with the Giant King present, it might very well be a suicide mission.

Since this was the case, I decided to wait and observe the situation.

The battle raged for quite some time. I'd estimate the time I have spent observing the situation would be roughly two hours.

The four main attackers showed obvious signs of exhaustion, though the casualties for the Fomorians were far more severe. The excellent teamwork from the human party had managed to cut down the regular Fomorians, with only the Giant King remaining.

The Young Swordsman had personally defeated two of them, slicing their necks after some ranged support from the Magician and Archer. In another situation, the Spearwoman managed to pierce the skull of another Fomorian after cutting the tendons in its legs. Though in this situation, the Spearwoman was gravely injured in the process. The final Fomorian had been defeated after an extended

skirmish. In the end the Magician and Archer had whittled away at it until the Fomorian collapsed.

The ground was stained in a red sea of blood with the cliff overflowing from the large amount of blood from the corpses.

Just then, a mist of poison started to form. The trees in the surrounding area began to wither rapidly. I rather like a strong poison.

It seems that the mist was from the Cleric, so there is a high chance that it wasn't some normal form of poison.

It is expected, given their level, but the human party is certainly not intact.

The Shield Warrior was broken after receiving multiple attacks from the Fomorian's Rock Clubs. He was saved through the Spearwoman's interference, at the expense of her receiving heavy injuries as well. Due to the long engagement, both the Cleric and the Magician will be low on Mana by this point in time. The Magician has already been stunned from Mana exhaustion and had to be rescued by the Archer twice already.

The Archer had to collect her arrows from the corpses around the battlefield to reuse them, due to the length of the engagement. Just then, the Archer was sent flying. Luckily she was caught by the Spearwoman, but her injuries were severe.

With the severe injury of a second member, this had become an impossible battle.

If not treated, at least three of them would probably die.

As it is, both the Archer and Shield warrior are close to death.

After some light fighting, the Spearwoman collapsed from her injuries, leaving the Swordsman the only remaining front-line fighter.

The Cleric desperately tried to heal the injuries of the swordsman. She seemed to be using a massive amount of Mana as she did swift and surgical mends to the Swordsman's body. There were only three

left.

Honestly, these few people have fought quite well. Imagine the dwarf figure of a human fighting against a towering Fomorian that is several times larger than your own. The fact is that this entire fight was something out of mythology.

The battle still raged for quite some time, the human Swordsman Youth continued to battle, showing a massive extent of discipline and a well trained body with multiple [Arts] and excellent equipment. However long he struggled, the Giant King resisted with ease, the battle without limits was beautiful in its own way.

But near the end, both parties still stood. While the Giant King was injured to a certain point, the Swordsman Youth was covered with severe wounds that the Cleric could not keep up with.

The winner was certain by this point.

Just then, the air in the area changed.

I could hear the Giant King begin the chanting of magic.

Though the result of this high class magic was only a minor wound, the human's expressions were that of frustration and horror.

The women all had facial expressions of despair as they looked at what they thought was their doom.

The only one that still held determination in their expression was the Youthful Swordsman. When I saw that, I made my decision.

I pull out one of my larger ranged weapons and quickly set to changing it into something that resembled a sniper rifle. An elongated barrel will allow for a much more accurate shot. In the end, the barrel is more than twice the size of my body. I decided to name this new item [Ginude]. I moved quickly, because I knew that the party had less than ten minutes before the Young Swordsmen would collapse and the party would be wiped out.

I embedded several abilities into [Ginude] and then loaded a massive black arrow. This arrow has more than five times the destructive

power of a normal bolt. It also has attributes of Origin magic that I added to further increase its power.

Even if this shot was something that could destroy a castle wall, it probably might not be enough to kill the Giant King. This creature had dozens of years of experience and a defense far stronger than my own, I'm not even sure whether or not this attack will be successful.

With that in mind, I went ahead to further overlay my abilities.

I wanted to increase my odds of a certain kill to the highest possible limit. Whether I kill it or not, if I fail, then this story might not be a funny story. It's been almost a minute since the Giant King had started to prepare for some form of attack. All I had to do was wait for the opening when he went in for the kill. At that moment I would strike with everything I had.

And then it came. The Giant King let out a triumphant laughter and let forth a surge of destruction and magic that began destroying the entire landscape.

I became the sniper on the hill, preparing to assassinate the target, and this was my chance.

[Ginude] had been prepped and loaded with highly compressed hydrogen gas. The explosion fired the ammunition out with great speed. The result of combining my abilities with a firearm saw to the manifestation of a weapon that is greater than any siege weapon. This weapon is a rail-gun capable of firing a projectile so fast that the target will be hit before gravity even has the chance to affect the ammunition.

The air is cut so quickly that the ripples and shock-wave of the bolt are clearly visible.

The great Giant King was mere meters away from the human party when I fired the shot.

The effect of the blow was deafening, the shock-wave launched a tsunami of blood and gore onto of the human party.

The bolt pierced in to the cliff, causing a massive explosion which caused a great portion of the cliff to collapse. Several of the dead Fomorians fell down in the incident. The result of the first test of this weapon was a success.

The Giant King's head had been gouged out and began to fall to the ground.

The Giant King's body began to collapse, falling right on top of the Human party.

I had already considered this situation, and at the very moment that the shot fired, I had already leaped with a burst of speed. Within the fraction of a fraction of a second that the bolt had fired, I had already closed the full distance and was prepared to follow up on my surprise attack to finish the assault. When the Giant King died, I used my speed to keep the humans from being crushed.

Just then, the entire cliff began to collapse. As such, I ensured that the humans wouldn't end up getting crushed from to falling rocks. Since they provided me with an excellent show for such a long period of time, I'll consider that as payment.

I'm a pretty good guy after all.

Though to add further reasoning, they weren't my quarry, so there wasn't a reason to allow substantially weakened humans from being flattened by falling rocks.

Then, I brought my attention to the Giant King, his broken body and separated head had fallen with us. I took the time to crack a smile. Here the Giant King had been about to unleash a great wave of destruction, only to be destroyed himself. He was destroyed in an instant, unable to recognize that his life had been ended, puzzled as to why his own body came into vision as he died.

While basking in triumph, I set out to recover the Giant King's corpse and the other Fomorians. I did not let a single part escape my collection, placing them all in to large spaces in my item box.

I wasn't sure if something that massive would fit in my item box, but sure enough, it went in without a problem.

After I finished that, I had to question whether or not I'd also kill the party to collect their equipment and abilities. It was a difficult choice. The possibility of adding them to my mercenary group would probably be low.

Gee. That was a good hunt, at the beginning, I was certain that I would kill everything here if both parties were worn down enough, though now I'm questioning that decision.

The Cleric wasn't able to understand the situation at all. She's frantic and panicking. Just when they were about to be slain by the Giant King, his neck bursts into a pool of blood, covering them. Then, they were swept away and saved before getting crushed by the falling rocks. This is certainly a situation that would make most people speechless.

In this state, I could kill them all without problems since it's me.

I approached them in a state where my abilities are active, my killing intent was spiking very high.

Just then, the greatly wounded Shield warrior and Spearwoman position themselves in front of the Cleric, though their wounds are very heavy. Their equipment is mostly broken, their clothing is tattered, and they were all covered with blood. The two in front of me sport twisted and distorted bodies, they both have over a dozen broken bones due to their injuries.

Their eyes burned with fire. Seeing that, I snapped out of my blood lust, something that seemed to be detected by the two. Though they didn't let down their guard, their staggered gasps did not get past me.

Then I really started to think. I can't simply state the reason they were defeated by me was because they are weak. I had watched them fight and turn to this sorry state after a great battle against powerful opponents. Suddenly, I show up and interfere with their battle and collect all of the rewards. The thought of also killing them when they were in this state hit a sour note.

Then, I turned and faced the Young Swordsman. I walked right up to

him and looked him in the eyes. His eyes were tired, but he had a fire in his spirit, something that I really liked. To kill this man who shows no fear to me would be a waste. To eat his flesh and blood when I had not been able to fight him yet would be a waste. To kill him would be a waste.

I decided that I would capture them and bring them with me. I stated that I was not going to kill them, but on the condition that they came with me. Hearing this, the Young Swordsman looked in to my eyes for several minutes, then agreed.

I was able to obtain several Fomorian bodies, as well as the Flesh of the Giant King today. Furthermore, I managed to gather several strong humans as well. A bonus was that there were several beauties mixed in with the group.

After the Young Swordsman agreed to my request, he showed no signs of hostility, though the others were cautious. I proceeded to treat them one by one. First, I set out to work on the Shield warrior, as he could die at any moment. I gave him one of Alchemist-san's life potions to stabilize his condition while I also treated the two Beast people.

The Cleric and Magician would be able to recover naturally, but even so, I forced them to drink mana recovery potions, courtesy of Alchemist-san's work.

During the battle they drained their power greatly. In cases where it is drained too quickly, it can have negative effects on the body, something that I wanted to avoid.

I could have used my [Blood Elixir] to treat them to full health, but I thought better of it. The risks of having that information come into circulation was too great of a risk. All of their wounds were stabilized and would heal naturally if left alone.

They slowly began to lessen their caution around me as I continued healing them. They probably assumed that I was an Ogre Mage, entities known for their great power but almost never attacked humans.

The fact that my killing intent was so powerful also further served to deter thoughts of attacking me.

I was asked what happened to the corpses, and I simply fed them a lie that I had used a magic item to store them.

In the circumstances, there was still a risk towards my own survival, even though the party is still weak, the fact remains that the Youthful Swordsman could still fight me evenly. I wasn't willing to become greedy for several items at the cost of my life, so the next best option was to win them over to my side. Some of them were still not fully convinced, but for the moment, they didn't make any moves on me. The tension slowly fell.

I was also tempted to take the women for myself, but I quickly dismissed that thought due to the risks involved with capturing the beauties. It would certainly put me at odds with the Young Swordsman. After I finished healing them, I was asked why I went out of my way to help them. My response being that I was in the area and was interested in gathering the materials. Since they were about to be wiped out, I made my decision to stop waiting and took my chances.

The group was pretty suspicious of my story, there were quite a few points that I'd have suspicions with if I had been on the receiving end. Though everything I had said was more or less true, I did want the materials, and only acted once they were about to be destroyed. The only one of the party that could accept this was the Youthful Swordsman who bowed his head and gave me his thanks.

The great build up of tension was broken with that sign of good will from the Youthful Swordsman. I hadn't gathered up all of the materials from the Fomorians, so I set out to take care of that as well.

While I was doing that, I decided that since we were on a mission, it wouldn't be best to bring more hands with us, putting the risk on our group. So in the end, we went our separate ways, I passed up on several parts of the Fomorians and that was the end of it.

I quickly made my way from the area since the time was running

short on my ability to eat my prizes. My anxiety was still present because when I begin to eat, I would become open to attack and would risk losing my prize in a bad situation.

I spent roughly ten minutes at full speed to find a safe place to begin eating my spoils.

Although the head was gone, the body of the beast was quite large. It would take me far too long to ingest the entire thing, so I decided It would be time to test out one of my theories. With that I turned my body into that of a massive slime using [Metamorphosis]. I wrapped the entire body of the Giant King in a layer of my body to absorb the materials. The body was unreasonably large to begin with, and it would have taken hours to eat normally, but this way proved perfect for experimentation.

In the end, there was no problem and I absorbed the corpses with ease:

Ability Learned: 【Deadly Evil Eye】

Ability Learned: 【Overkill】

Ability Learned: 【Giant King's Supreme Strike】

Ability Learned: 【Giant King's Dignity】

Ability Learned: 【Giant King's Wisdom】

Ability Learned: 【Giant King's Flesh and Blood】

Ability Learned: 【Giant King's Body】

Ability Learned: 【Vitality of the Mysterious Giant】

Ability Learned: 【Giant's Iron Hammer】

Ability Learned: 【Giant Killing】

Ability Learned: 【Aspect of the Giants】

Ability Learned: 【Left Arm of Penetrating Rain (Parjanya)】

Ability Learned: 【Right Arm of Roaring Thunder (Illatici)】

Ability Learned: 【Complete Aqua Resistance】

Ability Learned: 【Complete Lightning Resistance】

Ability Learned: 【Complete Evil Eye Resistance】

Ability Learned: 【Complete Earth Resistance】

Ability Learned: 【Region Ruler】

Ability Learned: 【Tyranny of the King】

Ability Learned: 【Lesser Summoning: Giant】

Ability Learned: 【Language of the Giants】

Never before, have I gained so many abilities from a single species; over twenty abilities were gained in one go.

I can't say that I could have hidden my surprise even if I wanted to.

To imagine that these creatures were so powerful, but for now, I needed to calm myself and return.

I want to spend some time with my children, so it is necessary to call my hunt to a close here.

On my way, I decided to test several of my abilities as I walked. Once, there appeared a snow rabbit and I chose [Giant King's Iron Hammer] to use against it. In a flash, there was an illusion of something massive in my arms. When I swung, the rabbit formed a flower of red blood and disappeared. Quite the scary weapon, but it is quite usable.

After that, nothing else interesting occurred, and I found myself back at the cave. I embraced my children involuntarily.

Just then, I heard "Papa." Apparently, the Sisters had taught some words to the children while I was away. The one who had said this was my son Argento. Ah, it's too good, I want a camera to record this scene. I'll remember these memories for years to come.

At any rate, I contacted the Dwarves and Elves back at the base to report the growth experienced by the children. It was just generally

assumed that since I was so greatly abnormal, that my children would be similarly so.

After I play with Auro and Argento for some time, I ground a part of the White Stag's antler into powder form and put it in to their breast milk from the Sisters. Both of Auro and Argento's bodies began to glow slightly and their Ogre orbs began to shine. It's quite possible that they might indeed have capabilities similar to my own, they will indeed become great warriors in the future.

The White Stag must be powerful. With how large these antlers are, it will last for quite some time for supplementing my children's growth. It will suffice in small quantities. Given the power of the beast, doing this should surely increase their power potential as they grow up.

After thinking for a short time, I pass a small piece to Redhead, who after only a small bite her eye's glowed a deep red and her entire body began to shake from the sheer raw power imbued within the antlers.

Seeing this I grew far too tempted and took a small portion for myself:

Ability unlocked [Protection of the ■ Beast]

Ability unlocked [Beloved child of ■■■]

Seeing this, it was clear that I had misjudged this beast entirely. This beast could be on par with ancient gods. His power was so great, that I was conceited to think that I even had a percent of a chance to defeat this creature. In reality, there was a zero percent chance that I would have survived.

The fact that I hadn't been killed was from the White Stag's mercy.

I had been far too immature and hasty. From there, I swore to myself that I would grow more powerful than the White Stag.

Well, if I ever encounter it again, I will exercise a great caution and respect its strength.

The White Stag is probably so delicious, I would never be able to comprehend the taste.

My mind then went back to my children, I wondered if they had gained some of my abilities, or rather if they had gained my ability to absorb abilities. Either would be quite useful in the long run.

On that same thought, I was curious to discover whether or not there were other beings, other than myself, with the ability to absorb the abilities of their prey.

By the way, Redhead got a new profession [Job-Sacred Beast Eater]. Seeing as a similar event happened to my children, they might have picked up the same profession, or they might have also gained the [Protection of the ■ Beast]

Well, the children are still too young to grasp the situation. Besides, I'm exhausted today.

With that, I surrendered to sleep.

[Level has surpassed the specified value]

[Special Conditions fulfilled « Army Massacre »« Pseudo Divinity »« Landlord Killing »« Giant King Killing »« ■■ Declaration» and has unlocked [Apostle Lord Extinct Species] for [Rank-Up] is now possible].

[Do you wish to [Rank-Up]?]

[«YES» «NO»]

I selected «YES» with the last shreds of my consciousness before I pass in to the darkness of sleep.

[Ogarou had Ranked-up to the required rank]

[True name granted by ※※※ is now available]

[Ogarou has received True Name: {Yatendouji}]

[Yatendouji has been granted Unique Skills]

[Yatendouji's Unique Skills:]

[Ability granted {Leader of the Demon's Gathering}]

[Ability granted {Acceptance of the Demon's Gathering}]

[Yatendouji has received special conditions in favor of the Gods]

[Specific Conditions Required, as designated from ※※※, Yatendouji will receive five special abilities granted from ※※※]

[An error has been detected]

[Among the special abilities to be granted, there are two release conditions that have not been met]

[Releasing abilities for which the conditions have been met]

[Yatendouji will Acquire the following abilities:]

[Wrath of Heaven]

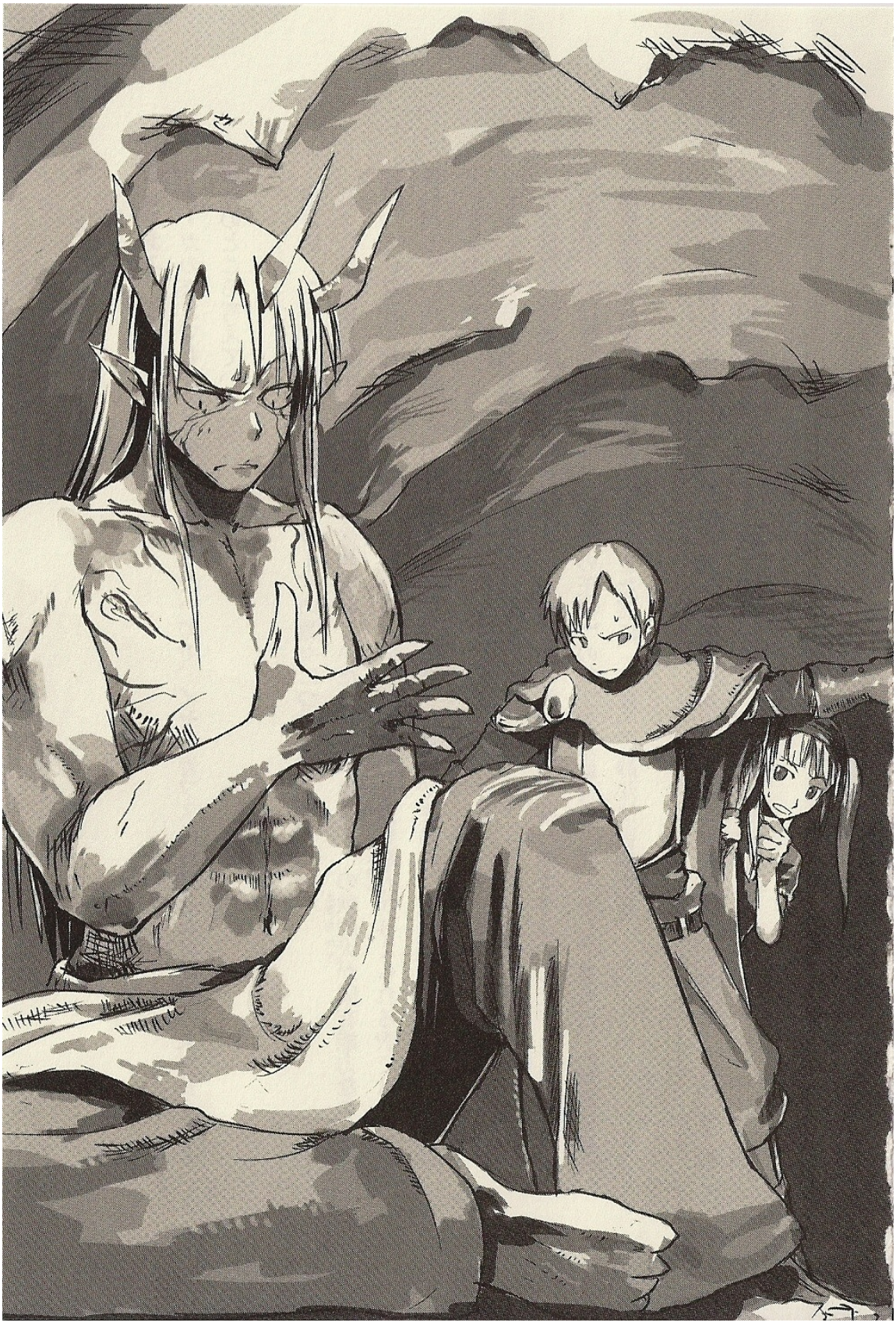
[Fate Stealer]

[Destiny of a great Mythological Figure {Black Eclipse Demon}]

[Special ability ■■■■] remains locked {Conditions not met}]

[Special ability ■■■■] remains locked {Conditions not met}]

Day 108



When I woke up, there was a variety of changes. I have to admit, I was a bit confused at first due to the sheer level of changes to my

body and power, but I think I'll manage.

First, my body.

My Rank-Up turned my body into an Apostle Lord {Extinct Species}

My first response was wondering what this species had been.

More than likely they were a powerful race in the past, though very few in number, that eventually died out.

I had originally been around two and a half meters in height, though now I stand at roughly only two meters. More or less, my body had become that of a tall man.

To compare though, my muscles and hands might be smaller, but are more than a dozen times more dense than they had previously been. I'd have to say that I'm more than a dozen times more powerful than when I was an Ogre, at the very least. My body now makes the power I felt when I was an Ogre feel similar to the gap between when I was a Goblin to when I became an Ogre. The power difference was immense.

It's either because of the Rank-up, or because my body and power had changed significantly, but now, the Silver Arm had changed its shape to fit my body perfectly.

I'm sure that if I manage to Rank-Up in the future, the arm will change with me further.

My skin is still black, but my reddish tattoos have turned into a deep golden color. In addition, I grew an extra horn in the middle of my forehead. It points directly upwards in an arc. My horns are thicker and far sharper than they were previously. I tried head butting the wall to test it out, only to almost cause a cave-in due to my greatly enhanced strength.

My hair had grown down to my waist.

I was about to cut it, mostly because I don't fancy having long hair, when Alchemist-san interfered. It seems that she really liked my new appearance and didn't want me to change it. When she started to

pout, that was the end of me trying to shorten my hair. I tied it up with some golden thread into a ponytail. I have a feeling that my hair will become Alchemist-san's toy for quite some time.

My eyes had turned blood red, the same color as Dhammi-chan's. My vision had also become so crisp that I can read from a book from nearly fifteen meters away. It seems Dhammi-chan also has this level of vision and can use it to see great distances. I'll have to experiment with it later.

On the matter of the Ogre Orbs that the Lord species receive, I have five of them. The first is buried in to my chest. Two more are in each elbow, and the other two are in both of my knees. The colors of these were a mix of black, red, and gold. I do not know what sort of powers these Orbs entail, but all I know is that I haven't released all of this body's powers yet. I'll need to take the opportunity to fully test this body out later.

My current form as an Apostle Lord seems to have a sort of biological armor. It's similar to what Dodome-chan can create, a type of demonic energy field embedded in to my flesh. Oddly enough, my body had been equipped with underwear and pants.

The pants were unique, and when I tested the pants out to see the resistance, they were resistant to cutting and everything else. It would seem that the pants are very unique, it appears that these pants have the highest resistance to blades. No matter how much pressure I put straight down my leg, the blade would never go through. I ended up breaking the blade before doing any damage to the fabric, mostly due to my excessive strength.

It seems that because this equipment is armor, I won't be able to change out of it due to it being a part of my body. It can be removed of course, but I have an incompatibility with other clothing for the most part.

The only real thing I'm unhappy about having this biological armor is that it leaves me half naked, leaving me only in pants. My abs are totally exposed.

Redhead found it interesting and had a thorough investigation of my

new body... I'm not much for exhibition, though I'm not cold either, nor am I ashamed that I'm exposed.

Since my figure isn't too intimidating, very few people will become frightened from my current form. I probably won't even need to don a cloak in town. Aside from that, those are all of my physical changes.

Then, apparently both of the sisters gained a new profession after they woke today. They gained [Job-Demon Child's Holy Mother], which gives their bodies a slight change to identify them as the child's mother. It is gained by becoming the mother of a child of a demon lineage.

While it has a negative connotation to become the mother of a demon child, it is the symbol of the bond between the two parents and their child. Hearing this, I couldn't help myself and hugged the four of them.

Auro and Argento are wearing some children's clothing that the Sisters and I had made. By now the children are able to form basic sentences. When I heard "Papa, Papa I love," my heart melted just a bit. There truly isn't anything better than this.

Back to the order of events for today. When I had first woke up, the first person to see me was the Princess, who was quite shocked and let out a scream. The Boy Knight quickly came to investigate, followed by everyone else. Though after a few seconds of fear, the fact that my body was the same color hinted to whom they were looking at. Given my hair was the same color, the Tomboy Princess was actually the first person to figure out who I was, climbing onto my shoulder. Her doing that brought everyone else to the realization of my identity.

I can't say that I looked too different, but my getting smaller and having different tattoos, as well as my much more potent aura that my body gives off, I can't say I blame them from being cautious.

Oh right. I forgot to mention; I had been previously hiding my color to prevent the Princess and other humans from discovering my blessings from a greater god. It would have been troublesome if I

were to be attacked from this being revealed.

Well, it doesn't really matter if only these two found out, it's not as if they are going to attack me because I have a Greater God's blessing.

I started to attempt to revert my color, but it seems that the base color for this species was black skin to begin with, so I found no reason to change it.

With the other girl's consent, I kept my new appearance as is.

I'm still curious as to why I have received such a powerful blessing from a Greater God, but such questions will be answered with time I'm sure. For now, the Princess has stated that she'll keep the secret of my blessing.

My body turned out to be quite hard to move around in. Since everything was smaller than it had been before, with far more power, not breaking everything and adjusting my grip had become quite the annoyance. I ended up spending an hour or so getting used to moving around in my new form.

One last note would be that I am quite curious as to the last two skills that were locked. I'm quite distressed as to what conditions I still need to complete.

Well. After a while, we had breakfast. I was far more hungry than usual and ate nearly three times as much as I used to eat.

After that, we set out. The Princess continued to ride on my shoulder, and we progressed through the mountains as far as we could today. The view was breathtaking.

Day 109

Today, following the Sisters, both Blacksmith-san and Alchemist-san's stomachs began to swell.

This time, I wasn't very panicked and went through the usual process. I supplied them with energy while looking for a location to rest.

Since we left the mountains the other day, no reasonable caves could be located.

After a short period of searching, we had no choice but to stop.

I asked Fire Lord-kun and the Princess to get out of the carriage. I had no choice but to deliver my children inside the carriage.

I accidentally let the Tomboy Princess see me cutting open Blacksmith-san and all of the blood that resulted from the process. At the very least, I used my healing skills right after, so the Princess shouldn't have been able to see the effects of my blood.

Therefore, I decided that I wouldn't need to worry about that issue.

Discussing this topic feels, to me as if I would be stepping on a landmine.

Back to the story, Blacksmith-san gave birth to a boy. He was quite bigger than Argento and Auro, and his species was [High Ogre]. Alchemist-san's daughter was a blue-eyed blonde human child with black tattoos on her body. She was born with several [Jobs] apparently. I'd assume that she would also have my genes as well, so she should grow quickly like the rest.

It was pretty rare for a child to be born as a human as it turns out. Though guessing from the tattoos she was born with, I'm going to hope that she is strong like the rest. It doesn't change the fact that I care deeply for this cute little girl.

Since I was far better prepared in comparison to last time, unlike the

situation with both of the Sisters, Blacksmith-san and Alchemist-san suffered only mild pain.

The exhaustion experienced for these two was not to the same terrible extent as last time either.

Even so, all of these children were born in quick succession. I wonder if it was because of their stronger bodies.

Another thought of why they were born within several days of each other also brought up questions about their conception, but that's for another day.

Well, that aside.

I named the boy Ogre Oniwaka after a historical warrior, and Alchemist-san's daughter Nicola.

When I fed some of the [Antler Powder] from the White Stag to my two new precious children, their abilities seemed to improve greatly, like my other children.

With the appreciation of the hardships from all four of these women becoming the mothers of my children, I loaded everyone back into the carriage. I placed my new children in to a special bed that had been prepared before we had departed in case the children would be born.

Around mid-afternoon, we arrived at the Labyrinth City Purgatory.

Unlike when I was an Ogre, I'm now a Lord Species, and as such, things have gone far smoother during our travels.

It was of little effort to gain entrance in to the city.

This city was surrounded by a circular wall made out of some type of special metal material.

There also seems to be a special rule that prohibits the removal of powerful magical items discovered in the Labyrinth outside the walls. This won't apply to me, since I can place whatever I might discover in my Item Box. Though I don't plan to challenge the Labyrinth in the first place.

As if reading my mind, I was informed that I wouldn't be able to access my Item Box in the labyrinth in the first place.

Since only necessities like food are allowed in, backpacks are extensively checked for a long period of time before entry is given.

For now, we searched for a good place to rest.

Day 110

This is indeed the Labyrinth City Purgatory, gold and silver treasures everywhere you look, adventurers and rogues seeking fame, there are few cities that have grown so quickly as this. Several parties formed of a majority of Yara Beastmen went back and forth around the town square.

The struggles and riches gained from the Labyrinths within are a great temptation to almost anyone.

It was still early in the morning. The sun had yet to rise. I walked past one of the Guild halls within the city [[[Purgatory]] Guild Branch].

The training field there is open to all adventurers, free of charge. There, you can see a mass of different species present, a Yara Beastman with bushy hair equipped with full plate armor, an old woman with a cane wearing a robe, a young boy and cat girl warrior carrying swords, a female human thief practicing her knife throwing.

I'm always for studying different fighting styles; that said, in the Labyrinth city, there are many such combat enthusiasts.

Even if you were to guess just at a glance, there had to be over sixty people gathered in the training field.

It seems that they all have come to accept a quest from the guild to challenge the Labyrinth. When I had spoken with one of the adventurers on the matter, I received an invitation to participate. Apparently, quite a few of the present adventurers had seen our training session the other day when we arrived in the city, and we received an official invitation to use the training ground.

When thinking about it, I suppose that it would be possible.

After all, seeing our party, since I'm an [Extinct] species, I'm being grouped in with the [Lords]. Regardless, the combat strength of our present group is quite high, even if I was simply an Ogre, that fact

would remain such.

Currently Dhammi-chan has strength, she has power similar to that of Redhead, and both are able to defend themselves properly. The issue lies within the lack of overall speed that Dhammi-chan has currently.

Well, while I was doing some training in the Training ground with the group, several adventurers stopped their own training to watch. After several minutes some of them came over to offer to spar with us. After pondering this for a moment, I thought it would be a good idea to allow some of our members to practice against the adventurers, while building up our reputation as well. Since I'm an Apostle Lord, an extinct species, most of them probably took me as a powerful lord class as even I received several challenges.

After some quick thinking, I thought to make a game out of the unique atmosphere. Though I left Dhammi-chan out of it since there were no individuals willing to go against someone that beautiful, even the other women were intimidated.

Well, I suppose it's fine for now, but Dhammi-chan won't be gaining any experience from this situation. I'll have to manage something later for her.

Since being able to fight against a multitude of different opponents is a rare opportunity, it will be good to gain some experience for the future. I decided to make things more interesting and set up a reward system.

If you managed to defeat Wind Lord-chan or Fire Lord-kun, you would receive a thousand gold coins. If you won against Illusion Lord-kun, you would win a Silver Plate, worth ten thousand gold coins.

As soon as I said that, the gathering started to get lively. The eyes of the adventurers changed, and all of them are fully motivated by money.

Although I don't have how easy it is to manipulate some people with money, there is a time where it just feels too easy.

I charged an admission fee for each bout.

I also added a special reward that if someone would be able to defeat all three, they would receive a prize of one hundred thousand gold coins.

Well, to make the long story short, even though the three that I had participate on our side had become exhausted, they never once lost a single bout. Our training methods paid off, no matter who the opponent was, each of them knew exactly how to deal with the attacker's movements and defeated them.

After all of the minor fighting, some of the higher ranked adventurers thought that it would be amusing to challenge me. I charged triple the fee and let them all come at once. It was over in an instant.

This was quite the profitable venture, not only did we get in our morning training, but also managed to earn quite a bit of money too. It's killing two birds with one stone.

By the time training finished, it was close to noon.

After the bouts, I received numerous invitations to various clans and organizations, but since I'm the leader of a mercenary group, I rejected them all.

For now, I decided to stop our advertisements since, for one, we are already on a mission, and two, none of the jobs have any real benefit to us. We went back to the inn and used the bath house there.

After, I went through the several items and counted the money gained from the event earlier.

After counting the money, I gave each of the Lords some spending money, should they head out for their good work.

I wanted to see the town a little more and let everyone do their own thing for the day.

Ah yes. incidentally, I went to go and check out the Labyrinth as well. Although I didn't actually head in, the building was a giant gray tower that towered into the heavens. It's pretty spectacular.

Tourism is also a pretty big thing in this town.

The back alleyways are pretty lawless, just to mention. There are some people that go missing and no one really seems to bother caring about it. Though while most people would avoid the back corners of the city after hearing something like that, I went in to try and lure some fools into attacking me. Since I'm more human-like, there will be far more people who will try to attempt something.

As if on cue, several thugs jumped me, their skills were meager and couldn't even damage my skin.

I grabbed one of them and pulled his head off, leaving the others in a daze. Within several seconds, the rest were also dead. I gathered up their items and ate the bodies while on alert.

After that, I used some acidic body fluids to eliminate any evidence that anything happened.

Some of the items that the thugs had were quite nice, but I didn't gain any abilities from the thugs. I obtained a magical ring, a magic potion, some velvet garbs, though the rest was memorabilia.

On the bright side, they had a lot of money on them. Although they tasted bad, I decided to forgive them because of the amount of wealth they brought me. Being able to just eat five people though, did please me.

After hunting for thugs in the dark depths of the city, I went looking around for some good shops. First, I went to a store that dealt with magic items that came from the Labyrinth.

After that, came several purveyor shops for adventurers, and I purchased several decent items at an affordable price.

While I was doing this, some shops had items that seemed to interfere with my Item Box, though I just needed to take several steps back before I could put things inside again.

With the accessories taken care of, I went to several material shops to purchase magic medicine, materials, and metals.

I managed to purchase several different magical metal ingots other than mithril as a souvenir for the Dwarves back at the settlement.

Incidentally, I ended up gathering quite a large quantity, as well as many different materials for Alchemist-san.

I managed to clear out a good deal of the magical shop's wares and he had to close for the time being to resupply. Well, once the shopping was done, I just returned to the inn.

Auro and Argento have grown considerably during the time I've been gone. They simply spent time playing around. I gave them a new toy to play around with, since they're rough, it won't last long.

After that, I went to test some of my abilities in private. I spent some time testing out abilities to see what I would be able to use, and how to secretly use my Item Box if I were to go in to the Labyrinth.

Though, after several minutes, the Tomboy Princess stormed in, and I had to end my tests there.

The evening went by rather fast. That night, it was quite intense, since Dhammi-chan and Redhead weren't pregnant yet, they were quite frustrated and were quite insistent on the matter. Though... I won't say that I put up much resistance. Since I already have four children, I suppose two more won't hurt...

Day 111

Today, I heard that Blacksmith-san and Alchemist-san also obtained [Job-Demon Child's Holy Mother].

Unlike the usual [Job] that is given once the conditions are met the, [Job-Demon Child's Holy Mother] seems to be a type of [Job] that requires a certain amount of time to pass before it becomes available.

It seems that it is not that easy to obtain since giving birth to a demon child seems to be only be one of the conditions. In any case, it's also not really clear how much time it requires before the [Job] can be acquired.

This is, however, for future consideration since I haven't really understood this world yet, let's leave it at that.

After we finished the usual morning training, we returned to the inn for a large serving of meat-filled breakfast served by the landlady. She was already past her mid 50's but she still maintained her beauty and shapely figure.

The food compared with the ones that the Sisters made, there was a gap in years of experiences to be able to make it more delicious. Needless to say, right after the morning training, everyone vigorously and greedily stuffed themselves.

Although I wanted to enjoy some more of the flavor, we needed to continue with the job of escorting the Tomboy Princess to the Royal Capital without any further delays. Therefore, it can't be helped, but I plan to return here the moment the opportunity presents itself. With a slight regret to part, we checked out.

Due to our decision that we were to depart today, we spent some time gathering supplies until around noon.

Afterwards, we grabbed food for lunch and made our way to the gate.

According to the Boy Knight's information, the process of leaving the Labyrinth City Purgatory seems to be more troublesome than most other cities.

I had been expecting such though. It was a lengthy procedure to determine if a specific magical item was your own or stolen.

Luckily, the whole process only required roughly twenty minutes.

To be honest, I just put all of our items into my Item Box that made it undetectable from the outside. So everything went naturally well.

Oh right, we gave the Princess a disguise, so her obvious noble aura was roughly hidden. As of now, she still hasn't been exposed as a member of the royal family yet.

It's quite clear that the aid from the Kingdom has great benefit on the Labyrinth City.

The gatekeepers don't dare to involve themselves with foreign nobility, but the work that gets done is very efficient. They are pretty good, honest men, a bit serious though.

Simple enough to say, but there are very few that have an interest in falling out of favor with those in power.

The only problem that arose was when I jokingly suggested to the Princess that she should reward the gatekeeper by letting him kiss her hand. The Princess at first became very nervous, but quickly composed herself and declined.

Well, I suppose I can understand the Princess's situation. But if you really think on it a little bit, she really is quite similar to an ordinary little girl. Due to this fact, I often find myself thinking of her as a daughter of my relative.

We left the Labyrinth City around 10-11 in the morning.

If we move as fast as we usually do, we would reach our destination roughly by tomorrow. But today, I decided to travel at a slower pace.

The cause of this is because the Princess is with us, it makes learning new abilities rather worrisome. I used my clones to scout

the surrounding areas, since today I have some other matters to take care of.

Browsing the scenery, the carriage slowly rolled down the road. Some of my kids hopped up onto my lap, I embraced Auro and Argento, they were sparring with each other and seemed happy in my arms.

On top of all that, the Princess climbed back onto my shoulder. After some of our more dangerous events, I started to allow this for security reasons. Other than that, the Princess just seemed to like it there.

She usually wore a sarcastic smile and would grab my horns when she wanted something.

Usually, these cases were "do this" and "do that". When she pulled my horn this time I asked her what she wanted. "Sing a song" was what she requested.

Well, I have nothing else to do right now so I activated [Job-Bard]. As a result, whatever I sang came out in a beautiful voice that you wouldn't think could come from me based on my appearance.

I chose a song from this world called "Charm of Isherundo". It's a song that Redhead and the Princess had spent some time teaching me earlier.

With some light melodies and loud songs, we descended from the highlands.

Due to the proximity of the Royal Capital, there were many individuals passing by us. Naturally a group such as ours attracted some attention.

There were several merchants that even were bold enough to offer goods for sale, with me present, there isn't any real danger in browsing their wares for a moment.

A small fish-like monster appeared on the road, it seems that it's rare and worth quite a bit. It seems that it is harmless if you don't approach them.

The Princess instructed me of how you would go about killing them without damaging the materials.

It was nothing, absolutely not a dangerous creature, though the Princess showed obvious excitement. While I was fighting it, I heard several cocky and loud phrases from her.

Oh well, as long as you don't get yourself into trouble, be my guest.

Aside from that, there really hasn't been anything else that has happened today so I suppose I'll briefly talk about what has happened to the other groups that we split off from earlier.

Ogakichi-kun's and Asue-chan's group is currently conquering an underground dungeon called Dyushisu. Unlike the dungeon we just left in Purgatory, Dyushisu is located in the city Grifos.

Ogakichi-kun said, "We just started the conquest of Dyushisu, nothing to tell yet. I promise that by the next time we meet, I'll be sure to Rank-Up."

Ogakichi-kun's last few words had my ears buzzing.

When thinking of that combat addict Ogakichi-kun, I wore an excited smile.

My heart is truly thankful for straight-forward guys like him.

The third group with Supesei-san and Burasato-san have gone into a great search for magical books called [Grimoire]'s which cannot be read unless one has achieved the necessary level.

Those who have the requirements are able to learn the magic spell from it.

They are also seeking to purchase well known demonic swords.

These purchases aren't cheap, but it seems they were able to solve this problem by raiding some bandits who were trying to kidnap Elven slaves.

From the sound of it, they used live bait, which turned out to be quite effective.

I hadn't been aware that Supesei-san had many times more magical power than myself in my Ogre form, that fact is now obvious.

Even during our battles with the Kirika Empire, the attack power of Supesei-san's abilities easily exceeded that of nearly three hundred people.

If ranking up will further increase the level of her magical power, her capacity will rise unimaginably... Though, there seems to be some difficulties with her ability to locate these magical books.

In this case, the bandits fought against Burasato-san who fought alone, the battle resulted in a literal massacre. They probably didn't even have time to regret their decision. In close combat, Burasato-san wields her dual [Blood Swords] like some Berserker.

Large-scale destruction magic from Supesei-san combined with the Mages she trains will be quite effective later.

Also, it seems that the Hobgoblins and elves have been training against small-time bandit groups who only attack weaker prey.

The bodies were laid out and used for firewood. I can say that this particular group is quite brutal, though these bandits deserved the dog's death they received.

The fourth group that consisted of the Tiger people and Drago-Newts did their best to keep their distance from me. They spoke to me informally and were quite unfriendly. The group was made of two Ogres, one Hobgoblin, two Tiger people, two Drago-Newts and three Humans. The whole group consisted of low-ranking individuals and were not really important overall.

In the end, the Hobgoblin was chosen for his leadership skills rather than his physical skills, mostly because the rest of the group consisted of heavily physical fighters who only spoke with their fists.

Simply put, the group put aside the concept of "the strong rules over the weak".

It was a pretty good test to see if they could manage themselves. Putting them on a long journey together would force them to

cooperate or they would not return. I don't expect them to be eating from the same bowl, but recognition of allies and being able to rely on one another is necessary.

I won't intervene if the muscle brains decide to take over the party, but if they do so, they won't receive any kind words from me upon their return. In my mind, I'm quite sick of their attitude.

The fifth group included five Ogres, two Humans, the Kobold Samurai and a Centaur.

This group was sent to investigate information on plant seeds and other agriculture techniques. Their group was placed under Dodome-chan. Her nature was very suited for information gathering, so I wasn't really worried about them.

Immediately upon leaving the forest, the team was divided into several minor teams and has already collected some very important information.

I wanted to tell them to not overwork themselves and stick to the rhythm. I plan to reward them well upon their return. This has shown that our settlement has one more capable leader amongst us.

For the time being, apart from the fourth group, they all seem to be able to do reasonably well.

The only problem is that fourth group. Although it was created to test its members, they still have yet to get used to each other and constantly end up bickering.

Today we traveled quite slowly, but even after that we should arrive at the capital of the Kingdom tomorrow.

Today we spent the night outside.

Today's synthesis results:

【Disease Carrier】 + 【Plague Infection】 + 【Epidemic Scatter】 = 【Pandemic Black Apostle】

【Paralysis Claw】 + 【Burning Claw】 + 【Adamantine Claw】 = 【Blazing Adamantine Paralysis Claw】

【Thermography】 + 【Echolocation】 + 【Sense Presence】 + 【Sense Trap】 + 【Sense Enemy】 = 【Phased Radar Array】

Day 111 Sidestory: The Hardships of The 4th group Leader Hobgoblin Rin's POV

Enough. I can't anymore.

What's this shit?

My group is all awkward. Why the hell did Brother (1) Ogarou make me the leader of this bunch!?

Bullying! This is bullying!

Couldn't he have at least made it a simpler combination?

My group consists of a prematurily ranked-up couple of Ogres from the same generation, we got me a Hobgoblin Mage, a couple of Weretigers (Humanoid Tiger), two overly proud Thunder Dragonewts, and three good for nothing human slaves. These are the component of our no-good group.

It's awkward. It's really awkward. Brother Ogarou's authoritative command made me leader but, yeah, I'm like the weakest one of this bunch!

Counting from the bottom is best. Because of the Leader, the Ogre sisters aside, we have the young Weretiger who

respect the strong and the elder and the lady Thunder Dragonewts, their dissatisfaction is depressing.

Why do they have to obey someone as weak as me? is the kind of atmosphere I feel. Even thought we've been together for many days now, we can't get along.

Ah so awkward, I feel a hole in my stomach.

The humans are shutting up so that's fine, but I can feel their

severely complaining gaze piercing me from behind. Can't they let me relax for just one hour?

Aah, really, I can't anymore. Oh, right, I gotta do something about this.

Enough. It's like I'm gonna break in a lot of ways.

Later

... See, they won't move quickly at all! Slow, the same that before.

.... This ■ ■ ■tard! You ■ ■ ■an'■ ■ ■a ■ ■ ■ fallin■ ■ ■ehind. ..... ■ ■ ■ ■so■ ■ ■ ■an'■ ■ ■ ■like、■ ■ ■ ■but isn't it!■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ya know! ..... ■ ■ ■ ■ 、■ ■ ■ ■ 、■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 、■ ■ ■ ■ 、■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■。

Hoburin's maximum stress tolerance limit has been exceeded, it made her (2) stop caring.

Hoburin's group's disagreeing jeers, violence and influence【(Activated Ear Cuff Ability)】 to force them to yield.

Hoburin's [Hardman Demon Sargent] nature has awaken.

Hoburin trained her subordinates

Training (animals) ability has greatly improved.

Apart from Hoburin, all members Union Power has greatly increased.

Day 112

Around noon, we climbed a hill to see the Royal Capital in the distance.

The walls appeared to be a milky color with high walls. It was built on an elevated position for increased protection. The majority of the base was built on a large hill, making attacks nearly impossible. At the heart of the city stood a huge castle.

Well, from this distance, you can only make out so much, so we continued our journey to the city. Once we started getting closer, large convoys going to and from the city passed us by. It also seems that there are no exceptions for entry without full examination. We quietly waited at the end of the inspection queue.

Both the Boy Knight and the Tomboy Princess were quite impatient, but were convinced that this was good life experience and that they needed to learn patience. After that, they quieted down a little, but the Princess kept tugging at my horns.

Although our actions were contrary to our appearance, we certainly stood out compared to all of the human groups around. There were only humans going in and out of the royal capital.

This could be another problem. We continued to attract quite a lot of attention, especially the beautiful Dhammi-chan. One look at her, and it's almost impossible to look away.

Well, I hadn't considered that we would stand out this much, but it's probably due to the fact that this is the Royal Capital of the Sternbild Kingdom that has a major human supremacy ideology. Thus, there were fewer monsters and beast races the closer you got to the royal capital, hence we attract much more unwanted attention due to us being who we are.

We will probably suffer some extra difficulties getting in to the royal capital due to the fact that we don't belong to the human race, but if we proceed the quick way and bypass this line, cutting straight into

the city, there will be rumors about us circulating at an alarming rate. Something I personally want to avoid at all costs.

There's nothing to do since we cannot just change our race, so in the end, we will have to just bear with it and stand in line.

To begin our plans, I want to avoid as much social contact as possible. We currently do not have nearly enough combat potential to compete with the Kingdom head on.

In addition, this kingdom is very strict on their non-human policy. If we have any difficulties, we will have no choice but to rely on the Princess. Another thing I want to avoid doing at all costs.

So in the end, waiting in line is the only option available. After waiting for quite some time, our turn finally came.

There was apparently an extra fee and tax for the transportation of our goods, but since we had certain individuals with us, they quietly voided the charges.

Finally, the benefits of this partnership bear fruit.

During the inspection, I attached a small clone in the inspector's clothing to collect information on the guards and soldiers in the city.

My clones are extremely useful for information gathering, and more often than not, serve to save my hide.

To conclude, many things happened, but we managed to enter the capital without incident.

To say the least, the royal capital lived up to my expectations. There are thousands of people buzzing within these walls. From outdoor shops to energetic voices, there was everything here.

I had my eyes on over a dozen shops that carried a multitude of products that seemed interesting.

Even compared to the Labyrinth City Purgatory, the energy of this place was in full swing.

It was as if every day was a festival.

Since it was their first time in the Royal Capital, Redhead and the girls were slightly nervous. We went down the main street where I suddenly noticed that, until recently, all of the buildings were made of wood, but every house here was made of bricks.

In addition, the roads were all lined with stone and there were systems in place to provide running water.

From what the Princess tells me, all of these things were established by a Royal Sage of the Royal Court nearly seventy years ago. The products and luxuries of this city are very rare in this world.

I really wanted to learn more, especially about the dark side of this Kingdom, but since we still have our mission to accomplish, there is nothing to be done until later.

I decided to immediately deliver the Princess to the castle.

After that, I planned to visit all sorts of different places within the city.

There will be few chances like this to gain crucial information regarding all manners of things about the workings of this world. An opportunity like this is something that I fully plan to take advantage of.

Passing through the outer town, we headed straight for the Royal Palace.

The farther in we went, the richer the houses and individuals became.

There were often occurrences where some of the more influential individuals who passed us by would stare at us with that "Who are you?" look on their faces.

Though after a short while, we got used to that and continued to move onward. No one actually bothered to interfere with our progress and would go on with their own business after a few seconds.

We arrived at the Royal Palace around 4 in the afternoon.

It's finally time to say goodbye to the Princess.

Hmm, I have to say, after these past few days, I've grown quite attached to her, so this parting will be quite sad for me.

Well... So I thought. It would seem our separation will be slightly delayed.

The Tomboy Princess requested to be taken to the location where only those with a [Royal Ring] could enter, the Amber Palace.

Honestly, this proposal of hers could result in a lot of different problems, but I ended up being persuaded by all of the benefits that I could receive from this proposal.

The place that we escorted the Princess and the Boy Knight to was in the center of the Amber Palace. The room was decorated in shades of amber and was called the [Sparkling Room].

The only individuals here are nobles, servants and the Royal family.

Because our group had appeared without prior notice, the servants here were very alarmed by our presence. Quite a few of them dropped what they were carrying when they noticed us.

They were wary of us, but since the Princess was with us, we were the same as invited guests of the Royal family and were treated with respect and politeness.

In all honestly, I would like to receive the reward that I was promised and leave as quickly as possible, but the Princess claimed that it would require some preparation.

It was determined that we would need to stay here until at least tomorrow afternoon. Of course, we weren't going to be placed in the same location as the Princess in the Amber Palace. Instead, we were moved in to a wing intended for guests.

Well, since we hadn't picked out a hotel yet, and since we were offered a world-class luxury, I... decided that it was possible to try to remain here for the day.

Dinner was amazing, the room was excellent and the bathroom was

nice.

Life... Is... Good.

Today passed without problems, so I slept well.

Today's synthesis results:

【Hawk Eye】 + 【Wind Reading】 + 【Ephemeral Eye】 = 【Sense Area】

Day 113

Ah.... I woke up this morning totally refreshed. It was a very relaxing holiday.

I wonder if it was the fact that the bed was as soft as a cloud, the warm feeling of the sun in the morning, or the effect of the several magical items that are installed within the room.

Whatever the cause, waking up this morning was the most enjoyable morning of my life thus far.

After looking around for a moment, I noticed Dhammi-chan, Redhead, and the Sisters lying on the bed nude.

They are quite sexy, only making this morning even more beautiful.

I wonder, what shall I expect of today...

Morning training was held in the Palace Courtyard after we received permission. Some of the soldiers started gathering to watch and study our fighting power.

Ah right. Both Auro and Argento's growth have already passed over a meter tall. They simply continue to grow and are already able to do simple physical exercises.

Kumajirou and Kurosaburou joined in the training of those two today. While tame, training against powerful monsters is always important battle experience. My two familiars will be holding back of course, or so I strictly informed them.

The Boy Knight had already done this with us, so I decided it would be fine to let him join in.

After the Boy Knight joined in, the guards that had been observing joined in as well.

I pitted Redhead with her [Job - Sacred Beast Eater] and the three Lords against various elite guards assigned to the defense of the

Royal Family and the palace.

With this, both sides increased in combat ability, but our end was far more beneficial, our side rarely suffered defeat and gained valuable experience.

One on one, my subordinates never lost, though when it was two or more on one, there were times where they would be overtaken. It's a normal result, considering who these soldiers were. In general, this setup wasn't that bad.

After that, we went back inside for breakfast.

Using only the words I am able to use to describe this breakfast... Delicious!

Even tastier than the Sisters' cooking...

What am I ever going to do after eating a meal that is the same level as that of Kings!?

Whatever this meal is, Dhammi-chan and the rest fell into a stupor with silly smiles after eating some of the food. This, I can understand.

If I'd not known tastes similar to this from my past life, I too might have been standing there with my face like that.

Though, while the quality is always important, the quantity is even more so!

After a workout, the more you work, the more you want to eat. Normal Royal members usually can only eat this much, so there isn't anything you can do about that.

Since this was the case, I made an additional order of a huge pile of meat and vegetables, no special preparations, just base items. With that our appetites were satisfied.

Last night over dinner, the Princess had, as promised, presented me with a [Proof of Belonging to Royal Authority], and informed me of the terms of being able to use it.

"If you use it for evil deeds, it undermines the credibility of the Royal power, therefore you will be treated accordingly if discovered. You will be executed on the spot without trial should this be the case."

Quite a useful item. The terms were something similar to what I expected so there wasn't any surprise there.

In this case, the item itself is far too useful, it really is better to own it than eat it.

Well, it's not as if I plan on becoming a vassal of the Royal Family or anything, but I gladly accepted the [Proof of Belonging to Royal Authority], together with collecting the award for the mission to escort the Princess.

There was even an additional third in gold past the agreed amount offered, so I needed to ask their reasoning.

While we have been here, we've gained a vast treasure trove of information, I kept it to myself, but just that would almost be worth this entire trip.

Their reason was that we had trained the Boy Knight.

Hmm? I wonder if this was a normal situation. I suppose this reward came from the employer. As such, I received their thanks and gratefully accepted.

Ah, simply to note, while I do possess [Overcharge] and [Discount], these two were not activated during this time, so these gains are not actually associated with my abilities.

To mention, I ended up thinking that the Princess was leading me by the nose, but she finally smiled at me with a smile that was completely pure and without ulterior motive.

Sigh... It really is as if she was one of my children or a relative. Seeing her smile immediately put a smile on my face.

However, I could say this over one hundred times: Something is bothering me.

Mmmm... I'll leave this be for now, it's best not to worry about things

when it isn't clear what they are. I'll just keep my guard up.

Soon after, we left the palace.

After leaving, we decided to head to some institutions that I had noticed yesterday.

From what I've seen so far, the Human to Non-human ratio is roughly five to one, with humans in majority.

There really isn't anything you can do about it. Judging from what I've heard from some conversations I've had, the prices for non-humans are very high compared to humans. Because there are so few Non-humans, there are just that type of bad people that seek to make money off of them.

In this case, I had no problem activating [Overcharge], [Discount], [Golden Rule], and [Luck] all at once. I wanted to see the effects on a trader, and as a result, I received a 40% discount from the human price without any issue.

In this case, I'll have no issues trying it out on all of the merchants in this city for profits. Whenever I would look back, the traders and merchants would have their mouths wide open wondering what they had just done. I found this highly amusing and laughed several times.

In this way, we proceeded through the Royal Capital. This time, no shady characters ended up tailing us or making contact, probably because of the Royal ties that we just established.

I'll have to come back here after some time, but for now, we really should be looking to return to the base. I want to make further improvements, and get the general living conditions improved.

But... Before we even managed to leave the Royal Capital, I got the feeling that we were being watched.

Not long after, we had already traveled to the hill from the day before. It was at this certain point that I found my scout clones waiting, and with their data, my brain now has a complete map of the area as well as information on the Royal Capital.

I had also sent clones to scout the route we would take towards our settlement to check for risks or targets that would prove difficult for us to handle. For the time being, it didn't seem like that would be the case.

The road ran through the forest. Since it was filled with monsters, I decided it was best to go through. As expected, the individuals who were most likely tailing us seemed to have given up.

When I was convinced that there was no one else following us, I let Kumajirou and Kurosaburou in to the carriage and released several skeleton horses. With this, we can travel at maximum speed with very few breaks.

Even with top speed and a direct route to the base, it will still take a few days. I have no problems with encountering new prey.

As far as the information gathering in the Kingdom is concerned, I will leave it to my brainwashed spies that were captured during the Human Invasion of the forest to get information. I have to say though, most of them are ineffective due to low contacts. Only a few of them are high enough in status to actually be in the know.

I also have spies within both the armies of the Kingdom and Empire for various reasons. We are not as powerful as the full combat force of either nation. Thus, we need to be prepared.

The information I've gathered thus far is that the most powerful individuals of the Kingdom are the [Four Symbolic Heroes] and their retinue. On top of them, there are the Royal Sages of the court who have large political power and, from the sounds of it, are also quite powerful in other regards as well.

I really want to know the details of each of these figure's combat capabilities, the extent of their political power, their equipment, I want to know everything about them.

Especially their weaknesses. If I could discover these, it would facilitate my life tremendously, and might even lead to a delicious meal and many new rare items. Though for now, that's off the table due to my improved relations with the Kingdom, but in the future,

who can say what might happen.

For the Empire, it seems that they too have a special group of fighters, though only roughly the same strength combined as the [Four Symbolic Heroes] of the Kingdom. This group is called the [Eight Great Knights], as well as a [Divine Priestess].

I have only just begun my investigation, but the Kingdom comes first. I have left many clones within the Royal Capital, so I decided to slowly investigate the nation's underbelly for all of it's secrets.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not actually plotting anything against them. It's just an effective way to kill time while gathering useful information.

Two birds with one stone.

This also helps with gathering information in the future, figuring out how to gather information from the people of this world.

Hmm, I wonder how these Four Symbolic Heroes taste.

I was so caught up in the thought of it that I got caught in some cobwebs.

I quickly killed the monster spider that attacked me by eating it in one bite.

That evening, I heard a mysterious voice in my head.

"Character of the World of Legends [Dark Legends of Origin], Assistant of the Important Existence has reached a milestone. Servant Ogakichi has fulfilled requirement [Rank-Up]"

"Condition {1} [Rank-Up] has been satisfied."

"The Demigod of Fire has granted additional rewards. The item [Great Gleaming Axe of the Fire Emperor] will be sent to him"

As soon as I heard this, I used the wrist cuffs to connect with him to confirm this information.

There, I saw Ogakichi-kun slaying me.

EHHH? What led to this happening?

Day 113 Sidestory

【Gossip: Great Emperor of the Destructive Axe's Awakening】

【？ ？ ？ Perspective: Story between Days 90 and 113】

A Large Demon (Ogre) is, a brown Large Demon with an axe and shield is, in the deepest part of the certain Labyrinth (Dungeon), a bloodbath of a fight happens.

The enemy is a Demon. The same as the Large Demon, but this Large Demon (Ogre) had black skin and a silver left arm.

On their battle, the Black Demon was superior. While being an imitation created by reading the mind of the Large Demon, the Black Demon reinforced by the Large Demon's imagination knocks down the Large Demon with it's overwhelming force.

However, even if the Large Demon was being pressured, it didn't mean he was being one-sidedly defeated.

The halberd in the Black Demon's hand. Lightning shoots out from the tip, a water blade flies from the axe-head, flames flutter from the pick, the butt end has the ability to manipulate the earth, this halberd was about to decapitate the Large Demon.

The Large Demon succeeded in partially destroying it. Additionally, the Black Demon's body was cut by the sweep of the axe, it's bones crushed with the massive shield , with a rock-hard blow he shocked it's brain.

But is nowhere near to make the Black Demon surrender. The Black Demon uses carefully forged martial arts to corner the Large Demon with a myriad of beyond human skills.

Water bullets that flies trough the empty air gouge his meat. The raising ground becomes spears and wound his legs. Raging winds becomes blades tearing his flesh, cut off his horn.

Suddenly a knife is thrown and his arm is pierced. The axe which is

boasted of it's obliterating might is evaded and his supporting leg's knee is stomped on and bend over in a impossible angle.

The Black Demon's attack certainly shave off the Large Demon's life, however the Large Demon's attacks are healed by the Black Demon's superior regeneration ability.

Only the Large Demon continue exhausted, the Black Demon regenerate and don't show any fatigue as the battle continues.

But the Large Demon don't gives up, and so he received destructive thorough blows.

His life was saved by his trustworthy shield's swing, parting from it and piercing it on the ground .

Out of obstinacy he didn't part from his beloved axe, however the pain felt from the destruction of his flesh, bones and organs was reaching a limit.

Blow after blow the Black Demon continue non-stop. At an almost imperceptible speed, fist as heavy as the Large Demon owns continue it's barrage.

The Large Demon was blown away by the last blow, at the verge of death after putting a good fight.

Just a little more, if he had been a little slower he would be dead. The comrades that were watching the Large Demon's fight, before they could do anything to help, the Large Demon was about to die.

But, help was given.

God's, the Blessing of a great one. Comrades, helping the Large Demon who the Black Demon was aiming at. And to the Large Demon clinging to the last of his life, a new power was given.

There was thunders. Golden thunders.

There was flames. White flames.

Thunder and flames surround the Large Demon. The half-dead Large Demon on the floor start evolving.

Bull-head Demon 【Minotauros】. With a huge frame and bull's head, a rank higher than the Large Demon (Ogre) from the 【Oni】 monster evolution line.

He slowly stands. The Black Demon is surprised by the Minotauros appearance, the Minotauros can't understand the current situation. But with a simple thought, the Minotautos with his beloved axe in his hand approach the fake Black Demon.

The Black Demon was a formidable enemy until now, but it was nothing before the overwhelming speed and power of the Minotauros. The axe blow split the earth, golden thunder and white flames flaring from the destroyed surroundings.

The fake Black Demon was exterminated without even leaving a body.

Thus victory was obtained. The exhausted Minotaur falls once again, but to sleep rather than dead.

Then in front of his comrades, the Minotauros is wrapped in deep peace.

- In the future together with the real Black Demon the world will know his name, this is the awakening of the 【Great Emperor of the Destructive Axe】.

Day 114

Ah, I see..

The enemy that Ogakichi-kun had killed yesterday wasn't actually me.

It seems that Ogakichi-kun had been fighting a shape-shifting monster that had turned into me to try and throw him off. This, however, served to infuriate Ogakichi-kun, and led to its destruction. Ogakichi-kun seemed to have been struggling that day and even ended up nearly losing once, but in the end, he managed to [Rank Up] and destroy the enemy.

Haaa... I had really thought for a second there that his actions were because he hated me, but it seems that I'm probably wrong.

Well, that's a relief.

In addition, he's gained a new rank and has also received a [True Name]. Though, since a [True Name] can cause no small level of trouble if certain sorcerers were aware of it, it seems best to avoid using these [True Names] as our public names.

Therefore, I decided that we would continue with the same naming style.

I'm now an [Apostle Lord] and will be called Aporou, similar to the name Apollo. I liked the naming scheme, with a name similar to that of a god, I hold a bit more respect for myself.

I informed the group that, from this day onward, that I would be called Aporou and not Ogarou.

Next was Ogakichi-kun. Since he was a new breed of the [Minotaur] species, it would be best to come up with a new name for him as well. The two of us settled on Minokichi-kun.

Minokichi-kun didn't seem to mind, and in fact, he actually thought the name was pretty good.

Hmmm, Cow + Kichi = Katsudon?

No, no, best to stop thinking about that.

I really can't wait to see him with my own eyes though, because for the moment, the image of him that I had just created needs to be struck from my memory at once...

So to conclude, I will refer to myself as Aporou and Ogakichi-kun will be referred to as Minokichi-kun.

I have to say, the fact that both of us have Ranked-Up together had made me quite pleased.

Minokichi-kun said that he would love to come back to fight with me, but they needed to increase Asue-chan's rank and have been entrenched on the top floor of the maze within Dyushisu.

During this time, he planned on training with his new body.

Hmm. Well, since Asue-chan doesn't seem to have much longer in order to increase her rank, we won't have to wait very long before we get to spar with each other.

Once Asue-chan raises her rank, I informed Minokichi-kun that it would be a good idea to spar with each other as soon as possible. It wasn't necessarily to stay dominant, but because I really wanted to see how strong the two of us had become after our recent [Rank Up] and be able to enjoy going all out.

Even since my previous life, my character has not changed very much. Well, I suppose it doesn't really matter that much anyway.

With that concluded, we began the morning workout. During the morning workout, I decided it would be best to use some previously unused abilities of mine.

I spent some good time using each of them in various ways to see if there are any special uses to them, you really need to know each ability to its fullest if you want to survive.

Many of these abilities turned out to be quite useful to me. One of the most effective was [Lesser Summoning: Giant] which took nearly

thirty seconds to use, all the while a large black mass began to form.

After that, three different beings formed, the first was a two and a half meter Ogre, the second was a four meter Troll and the final was a thirteen meter Fomorian. The latter can't be compared to the Giant King though.

All three species were significantly stronger than the usual Skeletons that I would create, though just as my Skeletons, their skin was black.

I have to mention, in a great contrast to the Black Skeletons, these giants were, for a lack of kinder words, quite stupid.

These things can only really be compared to dolls. If I don't give them orders, they do not move.

They just carry dull expressions on their faces. Luckily, at least they respond to orders. If they hadn't, then this skill would have been worthless.

Moving on, in order to celebrate Redhead's receiving of her new job [Job-Sacred Beast Eater], I gave her the standard [Rank Up] gift of three magical items.

The first was [General's Cleaver] which was shaped somewhat like a square Chinese Kitchen Knife with a length of roughly 80 centimeters. It is white without any spots on it with the blade itself cutting through flesh like butter.

The second was [General's Shield], a triangular kite Shield which, when not being used, shrunk down to fit into the palm of your hand.

Finally, there was a suit of white and gold armor with a red cape. It's similar to that of the noble knights of the Kingdom or empire. The name of the armor is [Platinum General], and this set had probably been originally made for a high ranking general to wear.

After arming Redhead, I asked her to cut off the Black Ogre's hand.

As a result, in a flash, Redhead had severed the hand, with blood

spurting out through the wound.

Still, there was no reaction from the Ogre. He just continued to stand there with his silly smile without his hand, bleeding everywhere.

Even with this, it would seem that these things will not move on their own.

After I examined them in great detail, I determined that they would never move unless I ordered them to do so.

In addition, apart from the basic commands such as "Fight" or "Flight" commands, using "Fight with all your might" or "Run until you're dead" seems to have a greater effect. It would appear that the more detailed the order, the stronger and more complex they become.

With this, the experience gained is both higher and comes faster if I use more details. It also becomes safer, especially if I give orders such as "Fight at full strength, but do not kill your opponent" when having them spar.

Of course, the Fomorian is still far too much for everyone to fight alone, but the Ogre and Troll are both fine.

Though, even though they are strong, there are still weaknesses to this ability.

First, to call them instantly, it requires the same Mana equal to that of instantly creating 50 Skeletons. While at night, this isn't a problem. I can always just absorb new Mana with my ability so it's not a big deal. Though even then, that level of instant absorption of my Mana causes some wooziness.

I need to keep in mind that in battle, if it's not dark, then I should avoid using it. That, or use it before a battle.

Second, each of them are quite slow compared to the Black Skeletons, both in speed and cast time, but spending 30 seconds to create something as powerful as the Fomorian is not as great of a weakness as one would think.

Third, the need to give them orders for everything.

If I cannot give them orders, they become a hindrance on the battlefield. If you aren't able to avoid them, they might become an obstacle for our maneuvers.

Though, them becoming expendable pawns to distract the enemy is quite useful. I have to add that the last one is also not that terrible of an issue.

Using it in combination with [Lesser Summoning: Undead], there shouldn't be any major problems arising.

As for Redhead, there are no complications with her life expectancy with her new abilities, so I'm quite looking forward to seeing her in action.

As for myself, I decided to test one of my abilities on a species around this area called [One-eyed Cyclops]. The ability I was using was [Deadly Evil Eye].

I tried it on the beast, and, as the ability's name suggests, the Cyclops died just from my gaze.

I can't tell what really happened, but at the same time, various animals in my gaze also began to drop dead. I quickly closed my eyes and disabled the ability before someone important is affected.

There were no wounds on the bodies, they just fell over and died.

I think I really need to hold back on this one. If, by chance, it hits my allies or if I see a mirror, it won't be a laughing matter.

I'll just keep this as a secret weapon. Hopefully, it will be enough.

Next on the list was [Giant's Iron Hammer] and [Overkill].

[Giant's Iron Hammer] was a huge transparent weapon. For the sake of the experiment, I ordered the Black Fomorian to block. While the strike didn't kill the beast, both of its arms were nearly obliterated, dangling at the Fomorian's sides.

Though it can't kill, it's enough to incapacitate something like a

Fomorian, which is quite useful.

Next, after I had repaired the Black Fomorian, I activated all of my abilities which increase my physical strength and attack power.

[Overkill], [Giant King's Supreme Strike], [Black Ogre's Strong Body], as well as several others.

In order to see if the Fomorian could take the full force of my punch, I gave it the order to "Strengthen your body with all of your might."

I had moved far away from the camp, just in case.

The result, the Black Fomorian just exploded into a plume of red.

Even though I had moved so far away, the rain of blood had painted the surrounding area in red...

After that, I sighed as I felt a chill down my spine.

After returning to the camp, Dhammi-chan was beside herself. Being covered in blood, combined with her being a Dhampir, caused some serious side effects.

I only managed to calm her down after coaxing her to bite and drink some of my blood. Even in her excited state, she was quite dangerous.

Redhead and the rest of the company, even the Lords, were on the brink of defeat by the time I got back.

At any rate, the [Giant's Iron Hammer] was quite a useful ability with many uses, though it has some shortcomings, such as you cannot use it on both hands at the same time.

As such, I am satisfied with adding a large number of new abilities to my stockpile.

Hence, my synthesis experiments will have far more efficiency to create superior abilities.

For now though, I was busy with this and wandered into the woods. Though I caught some new monsters, as a result of my excessive force from my abilities, I gained nothing from the minute remains left

behind.

Today I found a calm place to relax in a comfortable cave. I released Kumajirou and Kurosaburou so they can hunt. After we gathered enough ingredients, I returned back to camp. Since the Tomboy Princess gave us a large amount of different spices, today's dinner tasted great.

After the meal, we had a small round of training, then went to bed.

Today's Synthesis results:

[Improved Charging Power] + [Reckless Charge] = [Black Demon's Charge]

[Intimidation of the Strong] + [Giant King's Dignity] = [Black Demon's Dignity]

[Bone Blade Generation] + [Sharp Horn Generation] = [Sharp Bone Blade Generation]

[Crystal Crocodile's Armored Hide] + [Tough Skin] + [Steel Hide] = [Black Demon's Impervious Hardened Skin Armor]

Day 115

Today, we chose the shortest path to reach our base as fast as possible.

We visited Mason Village again while we were passing by.

We also hunted in the woods and mountains in the surrounding areas for several monsters. One such monster was called Rostepelnogo a fungus-like creature with a green body that carries a giant wooden club with iron-like skin.

Another beast we came across was called Molotoyascher, a creature with blue scales that carries a trident and has a tail that looks like a hammer.

Though in the end, I didn't receive any abilities from them. Naturally, after my [Rank-Up] to [Apostle Lord], the chances of gaining new skills became quite small. From this point on, it's quality over quantity.

Well, regardless, even if I don't get any abilities, I'm not really in a hurry. If I like a certain race, I'll eat them even if I don't get any power from them.

Aside from that, today was a peaceful day.

Day 116

It was around noon when we came across a small village in an opening within the forest. It wasn't large, but how it was placed made it easily missed by untrained eyes.

If you were to judge the number of residents, you would guess around two hundred people from the number of houses.

It was then when I realized the smell of death in the air. Just then, my [Intuition] activated and warned me of the danger. I left everyone besides Dhammi-chan at the carriage to guard the Sisters, Blacksmith-san and Alchemist-san. I used [Phased Array Radar] to search the town. After the preliminary search, it seems that there was only a single human remaining within the town. Dhammi-chan confirmed this with her senses.

I drew out my halberd. At the same time as an extra precaution, I activated an ability from my Silver right arm called [Beowulf's Fury] which heightens the defensive power of my arm.

It's necessary to remain vigilant. Once we entered the village, the appearance only served to justify my precautions, the sight was worrisome.

Pieces of meat were splattered on the ground and on walls as pools of dried and clotted blood covered the ground. The resting pieces of bodies, limbs and other parts of human bodies were scattered every which way. Even upon the roof tops, human remains were visible. When we got further in, we found several corpses closer together with what seemed to be makeshift weapons. Behind these corpses was a pile of bodies ripped to shreds, but not just any bodies...

"The children too, huh..." I said to myself. A chill went down my spine as I said this. Dhammi-chan also seemed to become anxious. We both continued on high alert.

The wounds caused to each of the corpses were either puncture wounds, or slashes. This wasn't the work of some form of giant

monster, so the true nature of this situation cannot be presumed, only serving to further increase the tension.

After moving further in, we reached near the location of the 'survivor' that we had detected earlier.

It was a youth, his body was covered with a murky liquid that seemed to be toxic and smelled terrible. He gazed at the sky with a blank look on its face, as if lamenting its deeds.

This youth, it seems like it isn't some ordinary villager... He wore a light silver steel armor that protects the body, though damaged, it still reflected the sun brightly. Around the waist were several decorations, it seems that the Kingdom's coat of arms was also present.

When taking into account the quality of the equipment, as well as the type, it's likely that this thing is or was a member of the cavalry for the Kingdom.

It's highly possible that he was a deserter of some kind. It's also possible that knights from the Sternbild Kingdom were responsible for the destruction of the village, not a monster. Perhaps the true cause had already left the scene and this youth was left in its place.

When I considered this, I decided on gathering more information.

When I got closer, I noticed that this young man was crying and holding something.

A corpse... The youth was holding the top half of a mangled corpse of what seemed to be a woman. He was embracing the woman while crying in a crestfallen manner. Most of the organs and blood from this corpse had already fallen out of the woman and were on the ground below.

This woman was probably someone important to this youth.

At this time, however, the eyes of the youth instantly shifted towards me, the wind suddenly began blowing. I felt the burning embers of hatred impacting my body, it seems that these feelings are a mix of sadness and rage.

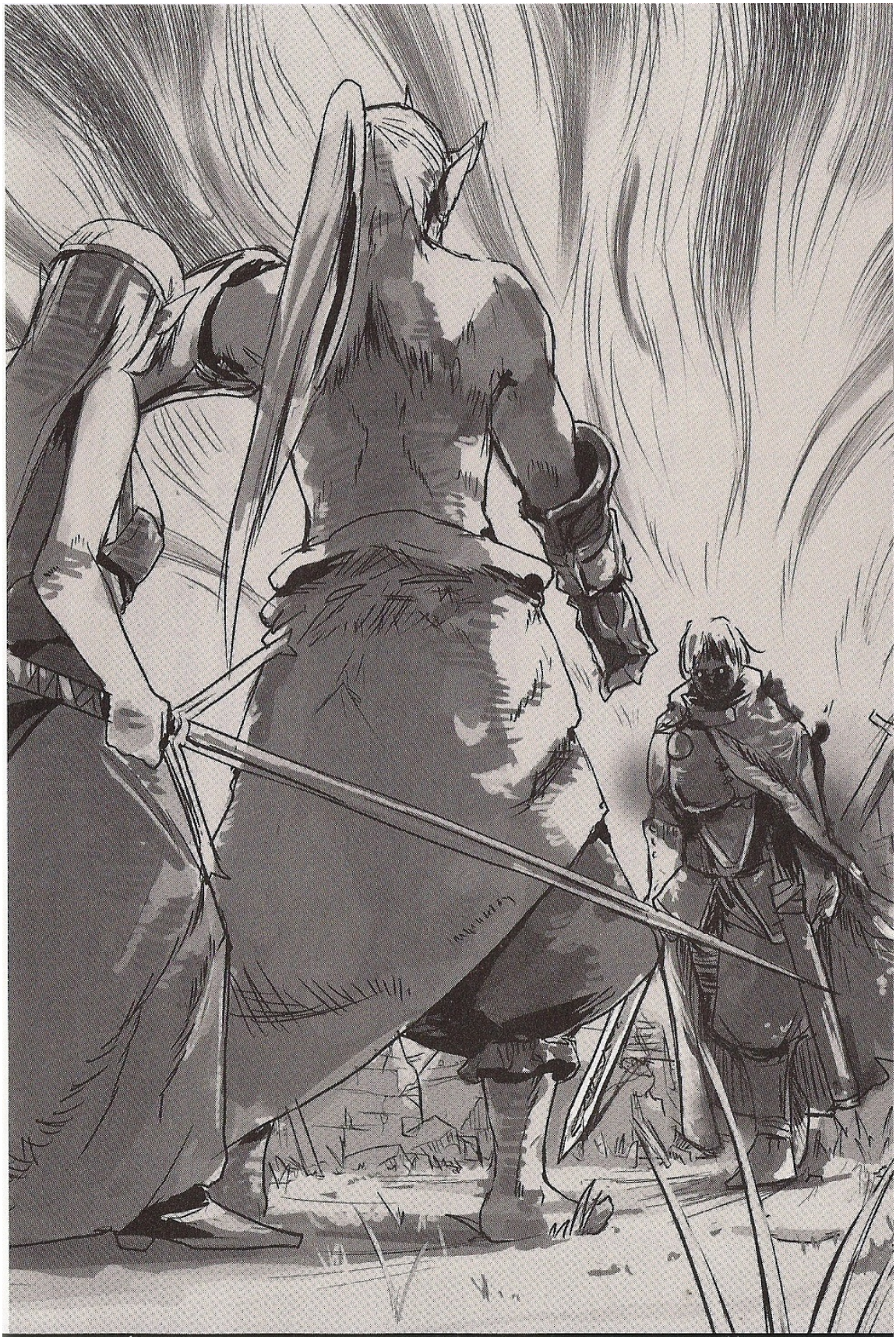
As I thought this, the young man abruptly laid down the corpse and began to moan in such a way as a beast.

As this happened both [Phased Array Radar] and [Intuition] began to sound a violent alarm.

When this happened, I thought "Oh... Dangerous", changing my posture to a defensive stance while at the same time securing the safety of Dhammi-chan.

The young man's gaze turned back to the female corpse on the ground, and drew the blade from his waist.

His eyes remained vacant, as if all meaning had been struck from him. It is not the eyes of one who has lost his mind, but lost the will of life.



That said, something abnormal had begun to take hold of this youth's mind.

A dirty, thin black magic began to swell around the youth's body.

When this magic was released, the speed of the youth increased greatly.

I recognized one of the youth's jobs right then and there [Job-Berserker].

I have this job too, so I might be able to defend well enough.

The youth charged, running similar to that of a beast, his intentions obvious.

He wanted to kill me.

His blade comes near my neck and is guarded with my Gauntlet.

Once this happens, something flowed into my mind:

[Yatendouji has invoked (Heresy Nemesis)]

[Following hostile action against the [Heretic／One Who Has Awakened the Psalms] the start of 【Eschatology: War of Conquest】 has been declared]

[Until confrontation between two aware of the Truth of Their names, Yatendouji's abilities will be increased by 300%]

[Special skill [Heresy Nemesis] will last until the conclusion of the battle]

These words abruptly appeared in my brain.

As this occurs, another impact is felt on my gauntlet.

It's too late to just dodge, I made my attack.

The conflict was over in less than five seconds.

[Conclusion has been reached]

[Special Ability 【Heresy Nemesis】 has been released]

[Yatendouji has obtained victory]

[Gods of which blessings pertain have granted a reward to the champion]

[The following item will be received by Yatendouji]

[Sunlight's Soul Sword, Hisperiol has been granted]

I wanted to say a few things about that announcement, especially the result, but the young man collapsed in front of us.

His physical capacity is probably higher than normal. It's crazy how it had increased so dramatically, the amount of time the power could be maintained wasn't that great though.

His attacks were strong, but they were simple and easily dealt with. Since this was the case, it was a simple matter to handle him without killing him.

To begin with, the young man had already suffered considerable damage and was quite unstable.

Even though the [Heresy Nemesis] had been activated with enhancements with several abilities and my Silver Arm's power, I couldn't hold back too much as a precaution. Too many variables leaves me with little room for that much mercy.

Regardless, I wanted to avoid killing this youth.

So, I reached out with my silver arm and struck him heavily in the abdomen. After the connection, the already injured youth didn't remain standing for long. In that berserk mode, he was ignoring all of his wounds. His body gave way quickly and he fell unconscious.

I mended his more severe wounds, but decided to leave his limbs broken to avoid more conflict. It was decided between myself and Dhammi-chan to wait until he awoke.

That said, we didn't have to stay put, both myself and Dhammi-chan set out to start processing the corpses and materials within the village.

Since the bodies weren't fresh, we set out to make graves for the dead.

In this world, those who die can become skeletons or zombies if their corpse is left in the open. Even in war, if a body isn't dealt with, it will become a zombie or skeleton.

I did loot some meat as the cost for the service, the rest was buried. It only took roughly fifteen minutes to do this.

I clasp my palms together and pray for them.

On top of the meat, I also decided it would be best to recover any usable goods such as the tableware and such.

This village was already seriously ruined. If it remains in this state, there is very little chance of it being used again.

Fortunately, there was at least some daily products to be salvaged. I was somewhat pleased that we managed to replace our daily living products without cost; it's fairly important to maintain these.

That said, after everything was collected and the corpses were buried, only another twenty minutes had passed.

I was in the middle of cleaning myself off when the youth stirred. I'll admit that I was caught off guard and jumped in reaction. I was expecting some form of attack, but his body seemed to have slowed greatly and a great deal of his hostility was absent. It seems that I'm being ignored as he rambles about not getting to say his last goodbye. He also seems to be ignoring the fact that he was embracing the upper half of that woman's corpse. All of a sudden, the young man was crying again. After he had settled down a bit, I managed to drag out the youth's story.

To summarize the information I was given, the youth is a simple commoner that was born in this village. He was born with [Blessing of the God of Sunlight].

News of his blessing eventually got out, and a messenger came to the village demanding the youth. They were given less than a month to send him. He was to be allowed to enroll in a school that trained knights and strategists of one of the princes of the Sternbild Kingdom.

In this world, a particular strength that creates great warriors depends on their blessing. There are different levels from transcendence to mediocre.

The youth told me of a scale of measurement of how powerful one's blessing could be. There seemed to be [Blessing Retention], which is a weak blessing that doesn't always grant abilities. The scale goes up to the levels of [Blessed Demigod], which gives many abilities to the extent of one being a prophet to their god. There are also cases of [Divine Blessings] that are much rarer than usual blessings. These grant the holder greater power, faster abilities, and much more force.

I omitted the 'in' because they don't really matter to me personally. All of our members have the rarest class of Blessing anyway.

This man had apparently claimed that he would return to this village and live with his childhood friend. That friend being the woman that he had clung to earlier.

The youth kept in contact with the woman and had been trying to return for some time. According to him, they would have been getting married right now in a different situation.

He was caught up in some political issues, but since he had gained his standing with a certain level of effort and held confidence within the army, it wasn't something easily dealt with. He wasn't able to get much free time.

He still failed every now and then, but he was happy overall with his life.

That is of course, before yesterday.

It would seem that when he was getting close to the village, he could hear the sounds of a struggle of some sort. Rushing in, he found the bodies of many of the villagers. A scream let out for help, and before his eyes was his childhood friend. The attacker was an [Arutirumu], a centipede-like creature. Her lower body was cut into a thousand pieces and eaten in an instant.

Of course, the women was probably killed instantly from that.

After that, he seems to not have a very clear memory. The villagers had apparently managed to inflict a certain level of damage to the Arutirumu during the attack. In his rage, he used his military training and used his [Blessing of the God of Sunlight] to use solar rays to startle the creature.

It would seem that after it was startled, it was afraid of the youth. It's belly was swollen after eating many of the residents and turned out to be quite weak. It would seem that the creature must have managed to escape from him.

After that happened, the youth had begun to embrace the corpse of his childhood friend who was growing colder as time went on. It was then that we had happened upon him, and from there is history.

This can be said to be quite the common tragedy in many worlds. There isn't much that I can do in a situation like this really. Words of comfort are not easily created and I couldn't think of any that suited the situation properly.

I asked whether or not he was aware of where that creature was, upon asking, I received some hateful eyes from the youth.

It was an uncommon material and likely had a blessing, I definitely wanted to capture this creature. I used [Intuition] because I was curious as to whether or not I should attempt to take advantage of this youth.

I talked to the youth and offered him the strength to destroy the Arutirumu if he was willing to serve me for the rest of his life.

This deal seems quite like that of a devil's contract when you think about it. I like the idea of totally owning someone.

The young man asked me what gave me my strength and whether or not that I would be able to actually kill the Arutirumu.

Since I never saw the creature, I cannot be sure, but as things are now, I took the time to nod.

There was a period of silence, but suddenly the youth grabbed my hand.

"If you are able to give me the power, I will pay anything."

Hearing this, I held out one of the cuffs and placed it on his ear without hesitation.

With this, the deal was struck.

This youth, or rather, let's call him the Avenger. His target is the Arutirumu. In exchange for the power to kill it, he has given me a powerful subordinate that has dedicated his life to that of an Avenger and my subordinate.

Not bad. There isn't really any loss here.

From now on, things are more than likely to become more interesting.

[[Yatendouji]'s [Fate Stealer] was invoked]

[Because the fate of [Psalm] of Avenger status (Sigurd Ace Sven) was placed under the control of the [Yatendouji] the [Psalm] will be included into [Yatendouji]'s world of [Black Eclipse Demon History]]

[Because this was built on the desires of [Psalm]'s current conflicting status as [Lead Hero of Light], the status was permanently deleted]

[Because of [Psalm]'s change, the following abilities of [Psalm] are temporarily frozen]

[Illuminating Light of Revelation]

[Cavalry Patron]

[Usurper]

[Merciful Maiden]

[Witch of Mystic Flame]

[Current statuses of Merciful Maiden and Witch of Mystic Flame are already in the awakened state.]

[When the carrier's servitude was established to Yatendouji, it is now possible to release the frozen special abilities.]

[As [Cavalry Patron] and [Usurper] were not in the awakened state after the carrier was placed under the control of [Yatendouji], they are now under the control of the master, given that the conditions are met]

[Psalm [Lead Hero of Light] has now been released from control, is now left to the discretion of the night and is seized by [Yatendouji]]

[Further releases of locked abilities of the Avenger (Sigurd Ace Sven) is dependent on Yatendouji]

Hearing that, I was immediately interested.

Even if this Avenger from the announcement was the same individual I fought, it would seem that this guy was quite the important individual in fate. His fate was engaged in this mysterious world, and is something that I've interfered with.

Since the announcement declared it, I shouldn't have to worry about future complications.

Well, this was quite unexpected. I'll admit I was surprised, quite surprised. Since there was quite a bit of information, I'll just summarize it.

Apparently, the Avenger, my latest subordinate named Sigurd Ace Sven according to the announcement, was an important character to another god, and I removed him from that god's control.

Hmm, the new abilities I was granted came to mind. While not given directly to me, I seem to have some ... control over if the Avenger can gain them, or rather, regain them.

I decided I wasn't going to release the Avenger for now though.

It was good to get a little more information on the Avenger though.

Still, it would seem that myself and the Avenger are perhaps special.

He.. She.. eh doesn't matter. A strong opponent consumed is delicious meat.

Well, I don't think I'll attack the Avenger, though if the time comes,

the meat should be delicious.

The Avenger asked if I should be offered anything since the Avenger was now in my service.

I simply replied not at all since I recovered various supplies from the village. I wasn't going to inform him about eating some of the meat though.

After that, nothing much else happened.

I did try to analyze the new sword I received, but I had some difficulty.

Object name - [Sunlight's Soul Sword, Hisperiol (Superior)]

Category - [Unknown, Sword]

Grade - [Unknown]

Class abilities -

[Pagan Damnation (Heresy Nemesis)]

[Sunshine Convergence]

[Blessing of the Sun]

[Light's Hero]

[Capacity Expansion]

[Locked]

[Locked]

[Locked]

[Locked]

Features - Yatendouji achieved victory against historical figure in -(Conquest War)- Unknown-grade sword was obtained upon victory.

Description - Three forms of those known as gods exist within the world, <<■■ / ■■ / ■■ >> where this blade is one of the ■■ . The

blade is imbued with light and tempered in flames near that of a sun, it shines like sunlight.

Yatendouji is the only one capable of viewing this information.

Yatendouji is capable of touching this blade only due to obtaining the subjugation over the previous owner.

Only Yatendouji and those he has given permission to touch this sword are able to do so. Any person who touches it without permission will have an unimaginable disaster befall them.

There are some rare exceptions, but since it is ■■, destruction is fundamentally impossible.

Additional information is possible, do you wish to attempt to view this information?

<YES> <NO>

The only thing I could think of was,

"Wow, this thing is amazing!"

Due to this, I felt as if I had gotten all the closer to solving the mysteries of this world.

But...

There is one thing I was unhappy with..

At this moment, I couldn't eat this thing at all...

I couldn't believe it, but no matter how many times I bite it, the blade doesn't even chip...

My pride was admittedly hurt a little bit.

Especially with the fact I couldn't read certain bits of the information.

I wonder if I would become able to eat it if I unlock those other abilities within the blade.

At any rate, I put it into the item box.

I'll also admit that I was pretty anxious about the notion of these mysterious psalms of [Shutellbelt] as well.

From all of the messages and notifications, I can only discern that the Heroic Psalms that were guiding the little hero here were deleted from the Divine Psalms [Shutellbelt].

Does it mean that the Divine Psalms aren't complete anymore..? If they are deleted and cannot be restored, I'm sure something bad will happen...

Wait...

Perhaps what I just did was something pretty disastrous...

Well, I can't say I really understand any of it at this point, so no point thinking about it at all. If something happens, I'll just leave it at saving the Tomboy Princess and her little Boy Knight.

Really... If there's a disaster set upon the Sternbild Kingdom because of this, I don't really think that I'd care.

After that, Avenger poured oil around the village and burnt it. Something like a mass funeral for the villagers and the whole village.

Along with Avenger, I offered a prayer with Dhammi-chan .

After that was complete, I introduced him to Redhead and the rest of the group.

They were quite surprised at the village suddenly erupting into flames, but had been preparing lunch because I had contacted them stating I was on my way back to continue on our way to the base.

Avenger had quite the serious look to him, but because he was originally a commoner and not a noble, he didn't put on any airs.

He turned out quite easy to talk to so everyone enjoyed his company for awhile.

I thought it would be a good opportunity for Auro and Argento's education, but I'll hold off on that for later.

Today we camped upon the peak of the mountain. Because of that,

the night was cold and not that great for sleeping outside.

Though, it wasn't that big of a deal for us.

The Skeletons can change their bones to create a space where everyone can sleep in. It blocks the wind so everything is fine.

On top of that, I grabbed some warm blankets, and with Kumajirou and Kurosaburou with us, there isn't any way for us to be cold.

Surrounded by a blanket and between these two cuddly creatures, I was just about to drift off...

[World's Psalm [Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon] part 5 [Kingdom Revolution] advances]

[One more of the conditions has been cleared]

[Clearing Chapter one [Obscure reality], Chapter two [Omen of a Sun], Chapter three [Beacon's Song], and Chapter four [Fang of the Destructive Eater] has unlocked chapter five]

[World's Psalm [Legend of the Black Eclipse Demon] chapter 5 [Kingdom Revolution] can be started. Will you begin chapter 5?]

<YES> <NO>

Eh...? Well, I'll go with <NO> for now...

[<NO> has been selected for early selection]

[The next occurrence will be during the automatic activation of Chapter 5 when the natural conditions are cleared]

[Current success chance is at 38%]

Oh, ya, I think I'll just sleep for now...

Starting whatever that is early is bound to cause trouble.

Day 116 Sidestory Avenger's POV

Finally, finally! This day has finally come!

When I think back, before the day our fate changed when I gained [Blessing of the Sun God], I spent every day striving to make her, Aina, my wife. Precisely because we weren't able to freely marry, I used that fact as my heart's support.

Even at the school to raise strong soldiers in the Royal Capital, when I was oppressed, despised and envied by many of the nobility.

Even when noble daughters approached me with ulterior motives, sticking to me, making me feel terrible.

In order to increase the veterans even just a little bit, even when I had to drench my whole body of the enemy's blood on the battlefield.

Even that time when I cut off the head of a young soldier, crying while running away.

I was able to overcome everything because Aina was there... I was able to fight because I knew Aina was living in this world. I couldn't lose.

The Nobles that were overcome with jealousy, were granted my forgivness. For the Noble daughters with ulterior motives, I addressed them with a calm, firm look and words that were not lies.

When I would become paralyzed on the battlefield, I would only concentrate on killing the enemy. Even if they begged for their life in front of me, I was able to kill without a second thought.

Aina was the pillars of my existence.

My heart had been protected by Aina's presence.

That's right, on those days there were many things I was afraid of. Born as only a farmer, the me of that time... I was living too

comfortably at the center of the country.

Things that you couldn't even think of in the village, were common in the royal capital. The bad oppressive atmosphere, hardened by lies replied to with more lies was definitely at the royal capital.

Therefore, in order to get Aina, whom I could trust from the very bottom of my heart. To bring Aina as a lover to the royal capital, I had continued to fight.

And finally, my efforts rewarded, the king allowed us marriage.

I have obtained the right to make Aina my wife. That said, we're not going to marry immediately, since such procedures and preparation take time, that's why I'm going to pick her up today.

So I hurried, even just a little more, and can't keep my feelings suppressed. I'm currently just over the field, riding my horse as fast as I can.

On my way, I encountered a flame-wielding "Fokkurufu", and a bear that had the head of a boar, a "Rough Raccon Boar " I decapitated the heads in one go, and left the corpses behind.

I think even the bones of the corpses wouldn't be left by monsters, and even if they become undead, they would hardly be a threat if they're missing their limbs and heads.

By eliminating the threat of "Tachifusagaru" and other such monsters, I hurry in order to arrive early even by the smallest amount of time in the village where I was born.

And at the verge of reaching the village, there is an unpleasant smell.

It was a smell of blood that I was so accustomed to.

While I was thinking, "Why the smell of blood?", I had a bad feeling.

My premonitions had hit the mark.

When I entered the village, I saw a sight I had grown so accustomed to, and the trembling in the deepest part of my heart spread.

Only half of a head was on the ground, it was Ajiru, a hunter. He is a

middle-aged man who had a bright personality, and often lifted the atmosphere.

Now he had an expression of anguish while sinking in a sea of blood and organs. His eyes were widely opened, they held a deep grudge, and were overflowing with tears of blood.

Embracing only half their bodies, a elderly couple is dead, D'occi and Buhr. They were two people that fought a lot on a daily basis, but if you look at the corpses, they were really in love. Their facial expressions were peaceful, which soothed my grief.

A girl that just turned 10 years old, Ayla, has a hardened face with expressions of pain and despair, the only thing remaining reletivly intact is her right arm, it is the only part not cut thousands of times, barely connected by the skin and trapezius muscle.

And in the small hand of Ayla’s is clasped the hand of a smaller child than herself, she might have been running up until the point when both she and her younger brother, Egeru, died. Only the held arm, up to the elbow, remained, so I could only guess if it belonged to Egeru or not.

On the roof of the only pharmacy, there is a woman who has her intestines spread out, everything gone below the lower pelvis, she is Sharei.

She had just married Mujia of my three younger brothers last year, even though there were reports that she loved only herself, she’s died while smiling with feelings of hatred. Meat chunks, similar to human beings at the bottom of the corpse, may be two children.

~Tsu !!

I have called Aina loud enough roar in the village.

Issues a pre-letter When you go to pick today, because it got even reply, Aina definitely ought to be here.

If I had died If Aina. Once organs with this hand is that it is mono Aina. Once the eyeball lying at the feet and it's mono Aina. Once the

blood to wet the body and it's mono Aina.

Given so, mind became mad likely. Nothing I will no longer be considered.

- Aina I do Where are ~Tsu !!

Expression of Aina that fill the mind, gentle voice, casual gesture, sweet smell, soft skin feel, you can rest assured relieved warmth, a number of years and stacked memories.

We left in a location that is open and is the center of the village shouting, and looked around.

Small sound. If you look there, Aina that is smaller in the shadows was there. Or body trembling little by little from fear, blood makeup is decorated in blue shark face. It must have been beautiful clothes stained red with blood, but are some places damaged, cares if the Aina is alive.

But Aina is a smile of relief that saw me, it was remember the impatience to to come running up to me under.

I saw it before coming here, large hole of the ground in the village.

It monster that struck the village is a thing of the proof is the type to move underground, its kind to capture the target on the ground by vibration.

Even had raised a loud voice from earlier, it was order to I still target If you're here.

Yet Aina comes doing running. Aina is a possibility that is targeted increases.

I was told to stop the course Aina, or from fear, Aina just not stop to come towards me. And brought Aina quickly even a little if that happens, the only choice was not going to far.

Luckily distance is not so far. I also start running. Immediately buried to go the distance.

And stretched fingers and fingers, slightly touched. I signed a natural

and smile to each other from the relief.

- The next moment, something that jumped out of the ground.

In front of the eye, the lower body of Aina is lost along with the fresh blood. Upper body flying come as repelled towards me. Dakitomeru. The missing face of animation that stare at here from the arm. Eyes lost light. Red spewing from the upper body of the cross section. Weight and warmth of organs spread in the hands. Lost and go heat.

What happened, I did not know.

Aina'll be in my arms. In the state of eliminating the lower body. Even looking at the face of Aina, even hug, and does not react with flutters.

What happened, I did not know.

- ~O~o~o~o~o~o, © © ~O Oh Ooooo Aaaaa ゛ A ゛ a ゛ a ゛ a ゛ !!

Although I did not feel only as somewhere far away events, when the heavy cry went up distorted strange from my vocal cords, critical part of my spirit is felt as bankrupt.

In the red stained field of view, Aina is felt that the I saw seeking help.

Of course, such things illusion. Aina is in my arms, never to move again.

It is painful not unbearable, and sad, the Ma蟲 of centipede type in front of the eye, was absolutely Nikuka~tsu. Want exhausted kill, to much I think from the bottom of my heart.

And lay the Aina on the ground, I was raised a roar like beast Unplug the sword.

This guy is the enemy of Aina, and Korosutameni.

· Sigurd lost those who love.

· Sigurd spirit has been contaminated with negative feelings.

· Sigurd became the avenger.

· I was successful in defeating centipede type Ma蟲.

· Avenger have runaway with sadness.

· Avenger was attacked in Oga Akira you've been doing.

· Runaway state of avenger was conquered immediately by Oga wax.

-Avenger is Beloved (Ina) In order to avenge the enemy, joined the Oga under wax that whispered to be empowering.

· Avenger of Psalms has been incorporated into the Psalms of Oga wax.

Day 117

Today I woke up still thinking about what had happened the other night.

It was seriously tedious and there wasn't nearly enough information. For now I'll just have to ignore that fact, but sooner or later it'll be somewhat important to say the least.

Right, well moving on with what happened today.

We started off by heading down from the mountains, crossing the steppes filled with very tall grass. According to the map of this area I had imprinted in my mind, this area was known as the Great Kasudado Steppes.

If we continued to follow the most direct route, we would find ourselves going to the Kuuderun Great Forest by passing through the outer Shirisuka Forest. After that, we would need to spend the day in the Fortress city of Trient then pass the home territory of the Falaise Eagle again. Once there, we pass through the foothills of the region and spend the day in the village Clute. The following morning we would return to our settlement in the Forest.

Traveling there on our Skeletal Carriage (the [100 Bones]) drawn by Skeleton Horses that lack the need to rest is efficient. Using this, we should be able to return in only a few days time.

After the plans were made we started out the day with the morning workout.

Today I decided to train with Avenger. To say the least of him, his fighting abilities are very high. That said, his reliance on [Art]'s and [Job]'s are a bit excessive and leave much potential untapped so it is still necessary to teach him how to fight properly. If he learns from this training properly, he could surpass the one individual that I had previously encountered in the Fomorian's territory.

Understanding that this man before me is likely also a [Historical

Main Character], I'll have to keep in mind that there must be some [Auxiliary Characters] that were intended to follow him.

Hmm, It might be necessary to provoke him a bit further, if the situation occurs where he comes across an opponent that would normally become his subordinate Avenger might have an instinctual need to stop me from killing them. Even so, it is still necessary to train him properly so that he can build upon his potential.

After sparring with him it would seem that his abilities lie on par with Rusty Iron Knight. Though saying that, he still remains slightly less than Dhammi-chan. He is certainly strong, but there are still questions regarding his condition and potential abilities. Hmm, other than that, Avenger is quite useful, to that end there is no doubt.

Today, we passed through Great Kasudado Steppes and entered Shirisuka Forest.

Day 118

In the morning we set out from the mountains.

It was roughly mid-afternoon when we had more or less just entered Shirisuka Forest that I was contacted by Father Elf.

It would seem that they had finally managed to identify and capture the traitors within the Elven Village.

Mistakes of this magnitude are unacceptable, so he said that he had personally overseen the entire process. He decided to inform me of this since I was the one who originally brought up that there was a high chance of Elven traitors during the Human's invasion.

Well, it wasn't much of a concern for us at the moment. The spies were captured, so when I finished speaking with him of the situation I decided to ask him of his impression of our hot spring.

I had already gained a rough idea through the communication cuffs and my clones, so I knew that they were popular but I wanted this information directly from the source.

The opinion I received from Father Elf was that it was "Like being in Heaven."

Sigh...

Listening to him talk about it made me seriously want to take a dip in the hot spring while drinking some Elven wine. Drinking Elven wine in an open air bath would be especially delicious.

I promised Father Elf that we should share a drink when we returned. With that, we finished our conversation.

Sigh... I really want to get back soon so with that, I greatly increased the speed of our carriage. The forest was quite lush, filled with trees and other obstructions for the carriage. In my rush, I'll admit that I used my [Earth Control] to smash a path straight through the forest. I'll be there soon.. wait for me my precious hotsprings

and wine!

Day 119

This morning we had passed the Fortress City Trient, though we didn't stop because my target for this morning's activities was the Falaise Eagle's habitat.

I've been thinking of creating a new Air-borne reconnaissance corps using those eagles since I first saw them.

By putting a goblin on top of them, gathering new intelligence would be a cinch.

So, for a good portion of the morning I went ahead and gathered some familiars.

It was around the time I successfully captured roughly 20 Falaise Eagles or so I heard a glowingly... familiar voice.

[World's Psalm updated]

[The Black Ogre's Saga]'s subordinate Asue-chan has ranked up]

[Condition one [Rank-Up] satisfied]

[Reward of [Earth's-Crust Thunder Maul] will be awarded]

Hmm, I wanted to check up on her, but it would seem that she was asleep.

From the sound of the situation, she had been engaged in a great battle against the dungeon's boss for most of the night.

It can't be helped if that's the case. I can wait a few hours before making contact for the sake of hearing the full story.

After several hours I tried to make contact again. It would seem that Asue had ranked up by defeating quite an imposing boss creature that had lived within the lowest level of the dungeon she was in.

She gained the rank of Earth Lord subspecies.

There are conditions that can be met to [Rank-Up] into a subspecies which will provide a [Divine Blessing]. When I asked her what God she had received a blessing from, she answered that it was the [God of Earthquakes].

Her physical appearance has apparently not changed that drastically. She now stands at roughly four meters in height and I'm not really able to request other features of her appearance directly from her.

However, now that she holds a blessing from a God's divine protection, her strength has grown immensely. She's also gained several new abilities from her report.

Regarding her height, she's once more... physically compatible with the now five-meter tall Minokichi-kun.

In regards to that, Minokichi happily informed me that their... night's business has resumed. He's surely saying that with one of his silly little smiles that he has regarding similar situations. Honestly... Minokichi can be quite the cheerful guy when it comes down to it.

Well, I think that it's all well and good. Though... I won't be passing on that information onto others...

By the way, Asue now also holds a true name Terra. It would seem that Minokichi received the title 【Great Emperor of the Destructive Axe】 she received the title 【Earth Crust Thunderous Hammer】.

...Did I receive a title? I don't think I have one. There was a lot of Skill and Abilities though.

Those two are a little enviable.

Ah well...

From the same boss hunting group Hobusui-san just like Hobuji-kun [Ranked-Up] to a [Half-Saint Lord] and Shibainu a [Kobold Footman], [Ranked-Up] to a [Kobolf Samurai].

Shiba-Inu the Kobold Samurai, just like Asue-chan, also received a true name.

Shiunosuke (He who goes through smoke screens). It seems like

he's one that won't be hesitant to speak his mind. But I'm pretty confident that it's good to have subordinates like that.

After that, I informed everyone about the [Rank Up]. One by one everyone besides Dhammi-chan and Avenger offered their own congratulations through the communications cuff.

It's understandable that Avenger doesn't find the need to offer congratulations since he hasn't even met them before. Dhammi-chan, however, is probably just frustrated, understandably so. Among the original party of 4, Dhammi-chan is the only one that has yet to have her 3rd [Rank-Up].

A shadow is overcasting her beauty.

I can understand her feelings and truly want to help her with it so I asked her "What's your current level?"

She said 89. Since one needs Level 100 to experience a rank up, given the current location, I think I can help facilitate this situation.

Well, first things first was the subduing of more Falaise Eagles to create more familiars.

After getting the number up to around 30 I called it there.

Afterwards, the two of us moved off of the mountain trail.

I generated numerous [Black Ogres], [Black Trolls], and [Black Fomorians] for Dhammi-chan to kill.

The two of us had moved away so that no harm would befall the non-combatant women traveling with us.

As for the combatants, Redhead, Avenger, and the 3 Lords, I also allowed them to participate in the Exp-cheating session I arranged for Dhammi-chan.

As for Auro and Argento, it may be because they are half-human and half-ogre, but it would seem that they have grown enough to begin lesser training themselves.

I carefully made sure that the training they underwent was not too

intense so that it doesn't obstruct their further growth.

I did my best to make the training as challenging as possible to give them some good experience though. So here we are, these little children training for fun so that in the future they may become further accustomed to it and be able to involuntarily begin training themselves in the future.

Thinking about lancing between making it fun and making the opponent strong is unexpectedly tiring. I suppose that's what it's supposed to feel when you are a parent.

As for Oniwaka maybe because he's the least human among the four being a [High Ogre] he has already grown far bigger than the rest. I think that he should be able to start serious training from now on, just not at this moment.

For Nicola, who comparatively to that of her siblings, her growth is much slower. She's still so small that the thought of training her must be put on hold for quite some time. It might take several years in fact. But the idea of raising a little child of her cute nature is great, so I don't mind at all!

We did combat training from noon until the middle of the evening. We trained to our heart's content at our utmost ability so that we can become even stronger. It's a pity that all of those giants that I generated were killed, but it's a necessary sacrifice.

Besides, we can eat their remains in order to feel less wasteful about it.

I had generated 100 giants today and I seriously wanted to eat them all, but it was not to be since I could only at best manage 40 of them.

Thinking about the serious mass I've eaten, the rest are probably wondering where it all went.

The giants are seriously big, whereas my body is just around two meters tall so to tell the truth, I don't have any real idea what part of my body all of the food goes into.

I've always been puzzled about that really.

Ability learned: 【Heightened Stamina】

Ability learned: 【Ultra Recovery】

Ability learned: 【Demon Slaying】

Ability learned: 【Physical Attack Enhancement】

Ability learned: 【Wild Dance of Heavy Blows】

Ability learned: 【Big Game Slaying】

Ability learned: 【Armor Collapse】

Ability learned: 【Luck Reduction】

Even after eating all 40 of those giant bodies, I only gained eight abilities.

I suppose compared to the [Black Ogre] the [Apostle-Lord Extinct Variant] will be very slow in acquiring new abilities.

If I'm honest, this irritates me slightly.

By nightfall we're all fatigued.

Sweat is flowing and we're covered from head to toe, our legs so weakened that they might give out from almost anything.

Thankfully, none of us are injured beyond several scratches. Nothing life-threatening.

Curiously, I felt the same level of tiredness as everyone else. It's possible that it's because my recovery abilities cannot do anything about fatigue.

About Auro, Argento and Oniwaka, they moved quite a bit during the last four hours of training. But since they moved so much they were exhausted and had passed out. Blacksmith-san had rounded them up. When they recovered they spent the rest of the evening just talking, thankfully none of them really suffered that much from fatigue.

After several minutes I got this swing of moodiness. I supposed that it was just caused from using too much magic. The invigorating feeling that rose from the depths of my being now felt quite dry and I was seriously exhausted.

Perhaps this is a symptom of [Magic Deficiency Illness]. But I'm perfectly confident in my body, I'm still a step before fully falling into the illness.

My body was quite sluggish and drowsiness is attacking me greatly.

I'm just taking them as a sign before full fledged magic deficiency illness. Now, however, I can relate to the feeling that the female magician that was a part of the fight against the Giant Fomorian King back in the mountains.

I suspect that the best way to treat this is to just drink a [Mana Potion] so I pulled one out and drank it.

This is actually the first time that I've drunk this potion.

To summarize the taste, it's seriously bitter.

It has the taste that makes you think "I do not want to drink too much of this." But as I drank it, my overall condition improved greatly. This confirms my magic limit, something that I've actually never hit before.

The giant's bodies that I created was exactly one hundred.

The magic required to make one was equal to roughly fifty black skeletons.

This means that I can roughly create 5,000 black skeletons before I hit my limit, and I'll be honest when I say that this number surprises me.

However, this is just the number that can be created when the sun is in the sky. At night, I can continuously recover my magic. I'd say I could generate enough skeletons to wipe out an entire country.

Well, during the night at least.

Today I learned quite a bit about my self and felt exhausted. I put on a blanket and my consciousness quickly faded.

[World's Psalm] added [Black Ogre's Saga] is now [Black Demon's Saga]

[Update subject] Dhammi has achieved [Rank-Up]

[Condition [Rank Up] is satisfied, Dhammi is now awarded the item [Frozen World Empress]]

[Condition [Rank Up] is satisfied, the title [Formal Wife of ■■] is now available]

Yatendouji's condition [Lord] is satisfied, seal for the title [Formal Wife of ■■]is now partially released]

[Title [Formal wife of ■■] is consequently changed to [Formal Wife of Demon ■■]]

[Title [Formal wife of Demon ■■] is now hereby granted to Dhammi]

[Title [Formal wife of Demon ■■] is invoked, title [Consort of Demon ■■] is now available]

[Select person to be awarded the title [Consort of Demon ■■]]

[Selection process complete]

[Title [Consort of Demon ■■] is awarded to Ruberia Walline (Redhead)]

[Title [Consort of Demon ■■] is awarded to Emery Furado (Blacksmith-san)]

[Title [Consort of Demon ■■] is awarded to Felicia Timiano (Older Sister)]

[Title [Consort of Demon ■■] is awarded to Alma Timiano (Younger Sister)]

[Title [Consort of Demon ■■] is awarded to Spinel Fean (Alchemist-san)]

[Title [Consort of Demon ■■] is awarded to Therese East Eckermann (Female Knight)]

[Title [Consort of Demon ■■] is awarded to Doriane Duboué (Dryad-san)]

[Hereafter, the title [Consort of Demon ■■] will be automatically awarded to women who satisfy the conditions]

Day 120

Seven girls in total, well, that is Redhead and the other girls, including Dryad-san, who had not been present, were given a new title.

Also, Dhammi-chan has gotten her long awaited [Rank Up].

Well, If you killed five [Black Fomorians], ten [Black Trolls] and Twenty [Black Ogres] by yourself, I'd say that would allow almost anyone to [Rank Up].

With the blessing from her God, she can bring out icicles. With them, she can freeze the Fomorians in place, or cut them open as if they were blades, or even crush the beast's head as if they were arrows.

The sight of Dhammi-chan butchering these giants, whilst bathed totally in blood as it continues to gush everywhere was seriously a sight to behold.

She was laughing like mad as she continued to get drenched with blood. She had gone into a serious vampiric blood rage...

Now back to what happened today.

Apparently, Dhammi-chan had [Rank Up] into a Noble Vampire, a subspecies of a Vampire. This particular subspecies, as I learned, is far more powerful than most other types of Vampire. I liked the sound of this greatly.

What I liked more, however, was that she had [Rank Up] into a very powerful entity that had been beyond my expectations.

Regarding her appearance, it was just as Asue-chan as she looked generally the same.

If anything, her tattoo had grown to cover slightly more of her skin. It's also a darker color.

Contrary to her outer appearance, her inner power has greatly

changed. Her existing abilities are almost all enhanced, both in scale and power. When I witnessed it, I was left with the greatest impression of elegance and perfection.

Her newly gained ability, [Vampiric Domination], allowed her to dominate her weaker opponents by sucking their blood.

There is also one of her more powerful abilities, [Intermediate Summoning: Undead], which allows her to magically call up twelve familiars.

Oh yes, by the way, [Intermediate Summoning: Undead] is an improved version of my own summoning ability [Lesser Summoning: Undead].

This ability comes from the blessing of [The God of the Underworld], a blessing Dhammi-chan has, the ability itself seemed quite useful.

With this, I think it's possible to generate monsters I've already devoured. Given the nature of such an ability I fully plan on eating any monsters we can find before we reach our base.

Also, with her [Rank Up], Dhammi-chan has acquired her true name [[[Hekaterina]]](Goddess who pales even the moon). The name itself is quite suited to her, especially if one sees her illuminated in moonlight.

However, unlike Asue-chan who I still call by the same name, I decided to give Dhammi-chan a new name. As such, I proceeded in thinking up a suitable name for her.

I came up with several names, Vammi, Paimmi, Iammi, and Bloommi as possible candidates, but they all sounded off. It's tough to consider them as endearing names. But then I came up with Kanami by taking letters out of her true name:he(ka)teri(na).

This time, the name is very easy to pronounce and is quite pleasing to the ear. I think it's a good name, Well done me!

Henceforth I called Dhammi-chan with her new name, Kanami. Incidentaly, when I told her that the other girls had also gained a title, Kanami-chan expressed that she had no comment on such an

occurrence...

I couldn't tell if she was mad or not...

We chose to leave our hilly camping ground, which had since yesterday, become dyed red with blood.

We took a detour to visit <<Clute Village>>, the village I had left the protection of to several of my subordinates during the beginning of my travels.

After concluding our business there, we rushed with great speed to return to the forest of our birth.

Although we had been rushing at the beginning, roughly through the middle we had slowed our pace slightly to collect new materials to produce magical items.

As a consequence, we arrived at the settlement roughly when the sun was setting.

Suddenly, I noticed that Kanami-chan, Redhead, and the rest of the girls had gone speechless.

While although not as drastic, I also noticed that Avenger was also surprised.

“What? What’s the matter? Why do all of you have such astonished expressio-!”

Well... If you’d seen what I’m about to tell you, you would also be awed by it.

Our little mine had turned into a fortress!

Oh! This is amazing!

We’d love to inspect it to see what improvements have been built into our little old mine to transform it into such a respectable structure. Because today, we are throwing a banquet!

As a celebration of our returning home, I’ve brought out various meats and Elven liquor to be enjoyed by everyone.

People who have recently joined our settlement also take part in the merriment.

Booze was poured everywhere!

The banquet had long since turned into a party.

I enjoyed the party greatly, but really, nothing could top the feeling of savoring Elven liquor in the Hot Springs.

This is the best!

Day 121

Well, after we had arrived back to the settlement, we were quite amazed to see the changes made to the settlement. The Mine had become a Fortress. When we moved closer to investigate, we saw the numerous changes that had been made to the old base.

I personally decided to make changes to the prison after we returned, but I also wanted to analyze the current situation and make changes to other areas as needed.

First, I suppose I'll describe the changes in personnel that have occurred as of late.

Before our departure, the members of Parabellum, referring to those members, which had joined willingly and had either evolved or participated in some form.

Those who evolved constituted at least a [Rank-up] such as myself and Minokichi-kun. That also includes our pets, such as Kumajirou and Kurosaburou.

The members of the community from back then included:

Lords: [2]

Half-Lords: [4]

Minotaur: [1]

Vampire Noble: [1]

Ogres: [7]

Ogre Mages: [2]

Ghoul: [1]

Dodomeki: [1]

Hobgoblins: [8]

Hobgoblin Mages: [3]

Hobgoblin Clerics: [2]

Hobgoblin Shaman: [1]

Goblins: [10]

Old Goblins: [8]

Elves: [13]

Humans: [98]

Kobold Samurai: [2]

Kobold Footmen: [10]

Kobold Ninja: [3]

Kobolds: [12]

Elder Kobolds: [3]

Triple Horned Horses: [4]

Crimson Horned Horse: [1]

Hind Bear: [1]

Oniguma: [2]

Orthrus: [4]

Black Wolves: [25]

It was more or less around 229 individuals by my last count. There was the case of Fire Lord-kun and the Dragonewts that desired to return home after they had been freed from the human slave army, so they haven't joined us officially yet. I'll count them as part of the

pending set.

Pending set:

Lords: [3]

Half-Lords: [5]

Dhampir: [1]

Ogres: [10]

Troll: [1]

Redcaps (Gnomes): [3]

Dragonewts: [4]

Half-Dragonewt: [6]

Lizardmen: [5]

Dwarves: [5]

Dullahan: [1]

Apemen: [3]

Tigermen: [2]

Centaur: [1]

The total is roughly 50 people, for a total of 279 people before we had left the base.

There was the situation with Fire Lord-kun and some of the others, though I've decided to not remove them from the formal number just yet. Therefore, although there are some serious changes to the overall order of the community, the issues can be dealt with in time.

The strong are obviously what makes up our hierarchy, it's a perfect set up because if the lower ranks hold an issue to how I do things, I can put them back in their place.

It's also useful to just have a system to determine the ranks and status of anyone and everyone at any given time.

With the large amount of people present at the fortress though, we might need to rearrange the ranks again.

The main issue is that the official count of membership is not actually 279 due to the children being born, evolved, or arrived after we had left.

Those are:

Ogre-Mixblood: [2]

Humans: [14]

High Ogre: [1]

Ogres: [3]

Goblins: [5]

Hobgoblins: [7]

Hobgoblin Mages: [6]

Hobgoblin Clerics: [3]

Hobgoblin Shamans: [2]

Hobgoblin Riders: [4]

Kobold Footmen: [2]

Kobolds: [6]

Dragonewts: [2]

Apemen: [11]

Dwarves: [5]

Leprechauns: [6]

Battle Insectoids: [7]

Stickbug Insectoids: [2]

Mika Atamaon'na: [1]

Porevikus: [3]

Plant Men: [2]

Cat Fairies: [23]

Nail Cats: [2]

Werewolves: [3]

Black Skeleton Commanders: [5]

Black Undead Knight: [1]

Boruforu: [1]

Falaise Eagles: [30]

Stamp Boars: [4]

Triple Horned Horses: [3]

Hind Bear: [1]

The added members totaled at 167 which brought up the original population to an amazing number of 446 members.

Though given that not all of them are combat-ready assets, this number fairly equals a force of one or two complete infantry units, if not more.

I suppose I'll need to explain step by step how and why the number

of members has increased besides those already mentioned.

The increase in births is mostly coming from the human women. Aside from the girls that I saved back at the Orc's mine, we now also have the humans, Avenger, Nicola, as well as six other human children as well. That makes for quite a few humans. Some of them have even given birth twice now!

Among those that gave birth to a child, all of them apparently received [Job - Demon Child's Holy Mother].

I would expect that in the future the number of women who bear this [Job] will undoubtedly increase. Their children will be blessed with powerful abilities, strength and other qualities because of it as well.

However, if the current birth rate continues as it is, the future generations will face various complications. The most possible would be food shortages, insufficient tools and living space are also possible. These are just a few of the most prominent that I can think of, however, there will probably be more facing us if countermeasures are not put in place.

On the other hand, there hasn't been a single birth from the elves yet. This really does show that the elvish pregnancy rate is very low.

I think that this is a special characteristic that they're born with that contributes to preventing a major population boom when they hold such long life spans.

With this at least, I can have some peace of mind. After all, the elves are quite popular with the masses in certain regards.

Now, I suppose I'll move onto the Dragonewts and the Insectoids.

These are people who were among the previous human slave army. Once they were freed, they had left to return to their own tribes. This, however, was not to be, because they had discovered that their homes had already been destroyed or had been moved to another location that they are unaware of.

Due to this, they returned here because they had no where else to go.

Losing their homes is the main reason why many people have come to join us, but there are other reasons as well.

In particular, there is the case with the Cat Fairy tribe. They still actually have their own home somewhere in the mountains.

Their reasoning, however, is that the humans still view them as simple animals, something cute, and are in danger of being captured and being made into slaves for some noble's daughter. Since the risk is very high, they choose to bring their tribes here to seek protection.

In actuality, only the two Nail Cats had belonged to the Human slave army, just a small portion compared to the Cat Fairy tribe that had arrived here. For that reason, I'm not certain about their combat potential.

<<Parabellum>> is a mercenary troop anyway, so I decided to draft and train all 25 of them to find out more about their combat potential for war.

As it would turn out, the base rank of the Cat Fairy is roughly the same as a Goblin, while the Nail Cat is roughly equal to a hobgoblin.

Because of that, they are not able to join our main combat forces.

After some more observation, I discovered that they are quite good with their hands. Especially when they are doing their chores around the settlement.

As such, I designated them as the caretakers of our base. Their

tasks generally including cleaning, organization, light labor and so on.

Then there is a beautiful flower headed woman (Dorian), she's actually 'that' Dryad.

When I had left the base, I had left behind one of my clones to keep her company and keep her safe while I was out.

It turns out that she kept on absorbing his life energy and the clone had become mummified. But, because of that, she had ranked up.

She now belongs to the [Dorian] race, which unlike the tree-bound [Dryad], she is able to move freely. The appearance of the Dorian race is similar to what the name implies; the Dorians look different than the Dryads as they have flowers growing on their heads.

The Dorian's flower is similar to that of a hibiscus with pink petals.

As she was no longer tree-bound, she came to seek me out after my clone had perished. When she appeared at the base, I gave permission for her to remain there. Rather, I had to take responsibility and take her with us. With her gaining the title of [Consort of Demon ■■], it was rather that she had come to stay with me.

Since it cannot be helped, I'll accept her decision.

Next is explaining why the Black Skeleton Commander and the Black Undead Knight were mentioned in the current population.

These are the results of my little experiment into the history and potency of the Black Skeletons using the [Kodoku] method. Basically it's an ancient practice of necromancers since ancient times wherein I'm allowing the Black Skeletons to [Rank-Up].

Creating them is actually quite simple.

First, I dig several big holes in the ground, then I put in several Black Skeleton Knights and Black Skeleton Axemen that I've been creating since long before I left the base.

For each hole, I put in a total of twenty or so Black Skeletons of any type I feel like and lastly throw in a Black Skeleton Summoner.

The last part is actually quite troublesome to generate.

Then, I put a lid on the hole so they don't escape and I order them to destroy one another.

The total number of Black Skeletons sealed in each hole is a total of twenty one. To arise as the victor, not only does the Skeleton need to defeat the other twenty Black Skeletons, but also the [Grey Skeletons] that the Black Skeleton Summoner can create.

In actuality, the Grey Skeletons are quite weaker than any version of the Black Skeletons, but since they are continuously spewing forth, there will be quite a few of them and as such they produce quite a fair deal of experience for any of the Black Skeletons that manage to destroy them.

Well, this scheme won't work as well in the case that the Summoner is destroyed early on, so I ordered that the summoner cannot be killed until there are no other Black Skeletons remaining at the very end of the fight.

The efficiency of this scheme is actually pretty good. As an added bonus, the remains of the Grey Skeletons that are being destroyed en masse are quite delicious to me.

Through this method, Black Skeleton Commanders and Black Undead Knights emerged.

To briefly describe their capacity, the Black Skeleton Commanders are able to use the ability [Summon Lesser Skeleton] which grants them the ability to call forth Black Skeleton Elites as their own servants. This allows them to create Black Skeletons for use in their own group tactics without my assistance.

The Black Skeleton Commander is quite valuable in that sense. Even

if you strip away the ability to summon, they still have the combat potential equal to that of at least three average Black Skeletons. This makes me wonder if, by any chance, the Black Skeleton Commander is actually a combination of the Black Skeleton Knight and the Black Skeleton Summoner.

Unlike the Commander version, the Black Undead Knight doesn't have any summoning type ability. But on their own, they display quite the astounding combat capability. The Black Undead Knight stands taller than any common Ogre at about three meters tall. It has eight arms. The usual pair at the shoulders and then another set below them. The other two sets are behind the previous two sets. Its eye sockets are empty with the usual luminous orbs in the place of its eyes, colored a deep red similar to blood. From its joints emanates a black sinister aura that wraps around its entire body.

Summoned Skeletons are basically just bones. They have gaps between their bones to allow facilitated movements, but unlike the normal joints of the living, their joints are just empty gaps. They are moved magically, this structure is responsible for their inhuman defensive capabilities. Since their bones are rigid and lack flesh, the Skeletons are quite resistant to slashing and piercing attacks, but they are quite brittle. If they are hit by something with plenty of force, especially when directed towards their joints, they can be made to crumble.

This, however, is no longer the case with the Black Undead Knight. Each of them have something like skin that fills in the gaps of its joints. Moreover, it has muscles and its bones are quite thick, making it far more resistant to smashing. As if its corporeal cushion is not enough, there is still another layer of defense in the form of a dark aura that is shrouded over its entire body.

This aura also serves as its specific defense against the sunlight. Common Skeletons and Undead are especially vulnerable against the sunlight and often weaken and perish when exposed to sunlight or attacks of the same attribute. But, with the dark aura, the Black Undead Knight is no longer destroyed by the sunlight alone. Of course it is still weakened by the sunlight, but it won't ever perish from it.

In the category of strength, the Black Undead Knight can take on five of my created Ogres at the same time. If it's pitted against the average Black Skeletons, even a dozen of them don't seem to be able to match its might.

This is mostly due to a special feature of its body. The Black Undead Knight has two well-supported skulls that provides it with a very wide field of view, negating most of the usual blind spots.

Furthermore, its skillful handling of its own biological weaponry makes it even more deadly. In seven of its eight hands, the Black Undead Knight wields various weaponry.

These include:

[Fishbone Greatsword]

[Executioner Greataxe]

[Crusher Morningstar]

[Right Tower Shield]

[Left Tower Shield]

[Scorpion Pike]

[Composite Longbow]

All in all, the Black Undead Knights are powerful entities in both offensive and defensive capabilities. It... really makes me want to eat it.

If I was still in my old Ogre body, I'm certain that I would have secured one or two abilities just by eating one of them. That's how powerful it is.

Though, since the [Rank-Up], securing new abilities is quite difficult. I would need to eat quite a few of them before I gain even one ability.

On the other hand, I can create it even more easily given my current body's capacity. That pretty much means that I only need to wait a little bit, so I plan on doing just that.

Ah right, by the way, because the Black Undead Knight is basically an elite Black Skeleton Knight, they lack the training to serve in an officer's role. Their usability is rather good because the intelligence that they have is slowly increased the longer they are active. With two skulls instead of just one, the level of combat awareness is quite high. These Black Undead Knights are certainly what Minokichi-kun will be training with when I'm not present.

Those with higher intelligence are given marks on their skulls and are given the nickname [Scarface].

It's always great when you gain a powerful and obedient new pawn.

In the end it's greatly useful to be able to produce these new Skeletons.

The last group to mention is the new Hobgoblin Riders that seem to have gained the ability to successfully tame a monster and turn it into their pet.

Now, for the base there are several things worth mentioning.

The current base, in addition to the <<Original Mine>> which has since become a residential area, there are 6 new facilities:

<<External Training Grounds>>

<<Farmland>>

<<Ranch>>

<<Workshop>>

<<Clinic>>

<<Hot Spring Facilities>>

Each of these has been expanded and put to use in their own ways. I'll briefly go over their purposes.

<<External Training Grounds>>

Due to the vast increase in the number of members, I had already generated a vast space for the purpose of large-scale combat drills

and other purposes. I had created nearly a [200 x 200 x 300] space for the purpose, though while we were gone it has been equipped far more efficiently. The rest of the room had been flattened, and rough terrain had been placed in certain areas. The reason I had created this room had been previously for the sake of bad weather, but now more intricate training scenarios can be implemented.

<<Farmland>>

The lands around the settlement had been cleared for the purpose of growing vegetables. This is Mika's preferred residence. As a Dorian, she is quite well suited for farming and working with nature. As a matter of fact, plenty of other races, such as the Plant Men, and many humans with [Job - Farmer] have set themselves up working the farmland. With them working as they have, they aid in supporting the current food supply for the rest of the settlement. At the same time agriculture techniques have been developing quite nicely to work in line with Mika's nature abilities. Some of these are creating fine, mineral rich soil where various crops can be planted and grown in a very short period of time.

Not only that, but it has also been found that through the use of several abilities, the growth potential can be greatly changed. There is a growth factor for vegetables of this world, though there are some similar to my world, such as potatoes that are planted in the <<Farmland>>. The Spirit Stones that aren't of much use to the dwarves and blacksmiths can be used as domestic water now in the form of the Water Stones. In various ways, it has made life far easier. I think this many times, but I seriously cannot help but feel inspired when thinking of what an amazing individual Velvet must have been for his Dungeon to create such a diversity of Spirit Stones. I cannot even begin to be grateful.

With that, I offered a silent prayer.

Though, with the number of people that require food increasing, it would be a little cumbersome if there weren't any spirit stones.At least for me, Spirit Stones have become a universal elite dinner.

<<Ranch>>

With the growing number of familiars and pets we required a place to allow them to stay outside of the living quarters. Since it was already meant for storage of the combat animals, it seems that it wasn't that much more effort to expand it slightly for the sake of free-ranging edible monsters that are captured. Since hunting requires substantial quantities of time as well as the possibility of thinning populations, this is undoubtedly a necessary source of food in the future.

Ah yes, Kumajirou and Kurosaburou, my personal pets, quite enjoy running around here.

<<Workshop>>

This is the result of the constant expansion of the Dwarves and Leprechauns who have significant work focus. Since the Leprechauns are quite adept at making things such as superior armor and clothing made of leather, they have created an entire area for the sole purpose of the task. The other side of the <<Workshop>> is where the great noise of the Dwarves in the smithy can be heard. Here the Dwarves have already installed great dwarven furnaces where ore and other materials are refined. The Dwarves have already taken safety precautions beforehand and properly installed the furnaces, so there shouldn't be any future complications from it, though the size is a bit excessive.

By the way, the furnaces use a large amount of Fire Spirit Stones to function. The Dwarves seem to have a way of maintaining the Spirits by creating a natural dwelling place of nature for the Fire Spirits. It's quite unexpected, but convenient in itself.

<<Clinic>>

Injuries are a constant through our rigorous training sessions and illness is an always constant threat to any settlement. As such the medical unit «Prière» decided to centralize its workings. «Prière», led by Seiji-kun, is a necessary existence for the future of this settlement and <<Parabellum>> as a whole.

Since there is a tendency for differences to arise between the different divisions, each division has its own dedicated rooms for

their personal use. The labor requirements for the task was quite large, but there wasn't anyone lamenting over the great level of labor generated to expand the base. It helped with dealing with management and organization anyway.

<<Hot Spring Facility>>

Finally, there are the Hot Springs.

This is more or less a major money generator from the elves. I mean, it's more or less an inn for the enjoyment of personnel and tourists.

There have been great improvements to it using the funds generated from the elves. There are now sources of entertainment and all manners of luxury now.

When I visited the hot springs, I found myself bathed in luxury and relaxation. I have to mention that, when I arrived there, I found a host of elves going to and from the hot springs.

The sheer success of the hot springs is certainly higher than expected. There is probably a possibility to expand the advertisement to other races, but for the moment there are no other targets besides the elves in this forest.

The great Oaks served as building materials for all of the projects. There was surely no shortage in this regard.

Oh yes, quite a few major changes have presented themselves to us on returning indeed.

Today I went around inspecting the new facility with Kanami-chan. It was around noon when I observed the training bouts of the members for the first time in quite some time.

I watched over the new recruits and gave instructions when necessary, though a good portion of my time was invested in watching over Redhead's bout with the Rusty Iron Knight who was serving as an instructor.

I had several bouts with the new members, then tested old veterans

of the group who had shown good growth since I had left.

I listened in on several good stories, and spilled out a little smile at the overall changes I've observed.

After the training was over and I had inspected several other things, I went over to the location of the <<Workshop>> where the personal workshops of Blacksmith-san and Alchemist-san were located. There were children playing who had been allowed to participate in the training, with a certain little baby earning a hug, a certain Nicola.

The Kitchen had increased greatly in both scale and human resources with the Sisters serving as the ones standing at the helm.

After eating dinner, I observed the extensive makeover that had been done to my personal quarters.

I took several items out of my item box to decorate and personalize slightly, but overall the work done was impressive.

Well, you can certainly say that it was a meaningful day indeed.

Before going to bed, I wanted to enjoy the pure night sky overshadowing the settlement. For this purpose I went on a date with Kanami-chan and enjoyed many things...

Today’s Synthesis results:

【Wrought Iron Shell Armor】 + 【Indestructible Castle Shell】 = 【Indestructible Armored Castle Shell】

【Rapid Recovery】 + 【High Speed Regeneration】 + 【Strong Vitality】 + 【Vitality of the Mysterious Giant】 = 【Hyper Speed Regeneration】

【Familicide】 + 【Demon Slaying】 = 【Tyrant of the Demon Slaying Demon Army】

【Lord of the Mountain’s Piercing Roar】 + 【Black Ogre's Roar】 = 【Black Demon's Roar】

【Bristle Guard】 + 【Strong Body】 + 【Lord of the Mountain's Stout Hide】 + 【Giant King's Flesh and Blood】 + 【Giant King's Body】 + 【Black Ogre's Strong Body】 = 【Illogical Adamantine Strength】

Day 122

It was another cold morning.

I equipped the exoskeleton [Jade Eagle King's Flight] version, made of the same material the Jade Eagle was made of.

Alone, I set off into the sky heading towards the current position of our second group led by Minokichi-kun.

As it would seem, Minokichi-kun had finished his boss hunting in the deepest parts of the dungeon he was in. According to him, he was heading out towards the exit of the dungeon, but ended up running into the 'Boss' of another party of adventurers.

It would seem that a Minotaur was not particularly common in that dungeon and ended up resulting in Minokichi-kun being mistaken for a Boss. Given his size and status as a subspecies of the species Minotaur, I can't say I blame the adventurers that much.

Needless to say, Minokichi-kun had caused something not so easily considered as 'just' an uproar. It would also seem that I was inadvertently forgotten initially during this situation.

This would seem to be due to Asue-chan believing that there wouldn't be an issue, but it seemed to be that the adventurers, especially the Adventurers of Nigeashi, were far more persistent in the complex structure than expected.

Given the situation, they had to flee the situation before much could be described. As it would turn out, they did end up passing quite a few other groups on their way out, though nearly all of them fled the moment they saw his figure. For the moment there aren't any groups giving chase, but it's unknown whether or not a greater situation will arise as the story reaches the numerous adventurers on the outside.

It certainly is a dangerous situation in the current state, so they decided to contact me before attempting anything else. Minokichi-kun was certainly not helpless in this situation and planned to simply

use force to solve the issue and leave the city.

Of course I ordered a drastically different behavior for the group through the cuffs by ordering the group to wait. It was decided that I would be necessary to solve the problem without causing a diplomatic incident.

While this was going on, Asue-chan had already left to explain the current situation to the guild and other adventurer parties that she came across. It's highly unlikely that it will solve the situation, however, and I'm convinced that there is an even lower chance of anyone believing the story.

Since I'm currently carrying the [Proof of Belonging to Royal Authority] that was received from the Tomboy Princess, I'm hoping this problem can be solved without further complication. Nevertheless, whether the [Proof of Belonging to Royal Authority] can be useful in this city remains to be determined.

As it stands, the Labyrinth city is not in an area i'm too familiar with. If it were closer to the Royal Capital, i'd be more certain, but the Sternbild Kingdom's borders do have limits.

If the situation goes sour, I should just be prepared to destroy the entire city with one of my most devastating methods, [Pandemonic of the Black Apostle].

In all honesty, it's surprisingly not that bad of an idea...

There are a great many adventurers who would be decent for eating because it's a Labyrinth city. It's also even a possible base that is surrounded by high walls that could become a training area.

Though, I'm preferring the idea of keeping that to a last resort for the time being.

Since Minokichi-kun wants to be out of the city by noon today, it's best to clarify things before that point. There are limits to a berserker's patience, something i'm keeping in mind as I increase my current speed.

After only a short period of time, I arrive at the Labyrinth city where

Minokichi-kun's team is present.

I managed to arrive there within an hour due to the sheer speed I was traveling at. Since it would probably cause trouble if I flew in over the walls, I knew that I would simply have to enter officially through the front.

After I showed the middle-aged gatekeeper the [Proof of Belonging to Royal Authority] the gate was raised without wasting a second.

Once I entered the Labyrinth city, the figures of the rest of the individuals within Minokichi's party who were split off of Minokichi-kun's main party. These were the ones that were ordered to wait at the entrance of this particular Labyrinth city the moment they arrived to wait for me.

It's still morning, so given that it's a vibrant-ish Labyrinth city, there is quite the dark atmosphere drifting around currently. When I used [Wiretapping] to catch the topic of the situation, it was none other than Minokichi-kun.

Hearing this, my speed increased considerably.

After a few short minutes, the three hotels of the <<Guild>> came into view. Currently, there was a turmoil of people hurriedly taking measures and scurrying to and from the building.

Well, now that we've arrived at the building, I enter through the front door and trigger [Black Demon's Dignity], in only a moment, only the sound of flies could be heard.

The galvanized clashing of iron armor disappeared.

Taking a short look around, a great number of people had collapsed and fainted, the few still conscious had pointed their full attention on me. I chose to just ignore the staring eyes of the few remaining and call for the guild's employees.

The one who approached was a cat-eared middle-aged man who trembled with a blue face. I asked him to call the guild master, the highest authority of the <<Guild>>.

Even though the man before me was middle-aged, he ran with lightning speed through a door and I chose a chair to sit down and chat with the other members of Minokichi-kun's party. After a short while, the man returned and I was asked to follow him into a back room.

The room was quite luxurious, decorated with items most likely brought back from the labyrinth. It was quite the expensive looking room.

As I waited, I was presented and drank a coffee-like beverage as a tiny man with a jolly belly entered the room.

He was younger than I expected, only around forty years of age. With him came a woman with glasses that looked to be his secretary.

The plump little man sat down on the sofa across from me with the secretary women standing silently behind him.

After a brief self-introduction, it would seem that this plumb man is the Guild Master. The previous guild I had met with, [Purgatory Guild Branch], the Guild Master had been an old man. It was because of that I had created the assumption that most Guild Masters are old men.

Since this was the case, I was a bit surprised, but what really matters is a person's ability and wisdom.

In the conversation with the Guild Master, I explained to him the matter in which had brought me to the city.

I explained that the Minotaur that had created quite the disturbance was infact, my companion and that there was no need to be so vigilant.

At first, they had doubted the story a bit, but they soon began to understand.

Though, I seem to have been slightly late in my arrival...

Eighteen people from three of the more highly skilled adventurer

parties within the city had banded together and formed a [Raid Party] in order to subdue the inbound Minokichi-kun and his team.

The misunderstanding that had arisen about Minokichi-kun's team had been more or less half settled with the Guild Master-- the other half has to be proven-- but things will become troublesome if the Raid Party ends up murdered by Minokichi-kun and his team.

Basically, inside the labyrinth, killing non-monsters is a pretty major taboo. If the homicide is discovered, an appropriate punishment is dealt.

All in all, this is a pretty delicate situation, especially with the Raid Party seeing them as monsters.

In any case, if Minokichi-kun and his team kill the Raid Party, a penalty will be demanded.

The penalty for those who are found guilty are generally such things as the collection of materials within dangerous locations, through various means, and of course without any payment for a predetermined period of service.

Even though this was not set into law, it was commonly agreed upon by all publicly.

On the other hand, this penalty would not occur for the Raid Party, even if they manage to kill Minokichi-kun and his team.

It's downright unreasonable, but according to the Guild Master, the problem more or less rests with recognizing Minokichi-kun.

Naturally, I seriously wanted to complain, but there is no helping it due to how unreasonable the world itself is.

I would like to kill the adventurers and take their equipment, but given the circumstances and the impossibility to avoid blame, I contacted Minokichi-kun and the others to inform them to not kill the Raid Party.

He was stunned to hear he wasn't allowed to kill them and that he had to surrender a portion of the equipment.

Because the whole situation was an accident, some of the equipment could be taken and there was no helping it. Regardless I set up precautions.

I killed some time doing some minor business with the Guild Master, the material that we produce in the forest sells for quite the high price, something that I did not expect. Then, after completing various procedures and documentation, I contacted Minokichi-kun again and told him that they will be able to depart at noon as planned. Because we were waiting at the entrance of the Labyrinth, we managed to meet Minokichi-kun and his team as they came out.

With me there to confirm the story was the plump little Guild Master, the secretary woman, the Raid party, and more than thirty guards that were under the employ of the Guild.

It could probably be said that the number of people that came to confront the present Minokichi-kun was far too low in both number and skill.

As soon as they saw him come out of the Labyrinth, all of them took a step back unconsciously.

I can more or less understand it, before such an imposing figure standing before them, even the tough-looking and robust men took such an action.

By the way, the townspeople looked at Minokichi-kun from a distance as he left the Labyrinth. There's a bit of confusion amongst the people as expected, but there was no panic breaking out within the Labyrinth city.

Even though I knew, it was really quite something to actually see Minokichi-kun in person.

He, is, HUGE!!

As of now, Minokichi-kun is more than twice my current size. He stands five meters in height and I need to look up just to see his face. The massive figure that I'm seeing is intimidating just by itself. It's not just the size, but each part of his body is pretty flashy. Each time he takes a breath, thunder and flames come out of his big

mouth. His lower body is completely covered in a golden fur that emits a crackling sound similar to thunder. The color of the upper masculine body was brown and didn't really change too much from before. His tattoos resembled mine and were both black and gold in color. He had a new [Divine Protection] which drew quite a bit of attention, but it's not something that can be helped. On his shoulders were the Raid Party members, groaning in pain.

Yeah... it's a pretty surreal sight to behold. Next to him stood Asue-chan who also played as another factor to this unique atmosphere.

It's such a great feeling.

All of the Raid Party members were injured. Most of them were heavily injured, though a few were gravely injured and one only had some minor burns. Some of them had complex fractures or missing limbs, but none of them had died nor were they in danger of such.

As such, no penalty followed the situation.

I even decided to heal them. As I was healing them, some of the party members looked as if they wanted to say something, but I cast them a serious look and they shut up real quick.

There weren't any further problems due to the intermediation of the Guild Master himself, but if the Raid party intends to attempt a night raid on us, I will gladly partake in devouring them.

Since there was no further business to be taken care of, I informed Minokichi-kun to return to the base as soon as he saw fit. Afterwards, I departed quickly after collecting almost all of the items that Minokichi-kun had gained.

Even though I had the [Proof of Belonging to Royal Authority], it was quite the troublesome and time consuming process to get them out of the city. Minokichi-kun even acquired a [Spirit Stone]. Ah, he is such a good guy. Hmm... Still, I wonder how to best use this [Spirit Stone]...

It's a real problem, would it be best to synthesize it with my silver arm or just eat it? Is it good to use it as material for a magical item?

Ahh, I don't understand them well enough so I decided to keep it in my Item Box until I collect some more information about them.

Today's Synthesis results:

【Left Arm of Penetrating Rain (Parjanya)】 + 【Right Arm of Roaring Thunder (Illatici)】 = 【Echoing Arms of the Thunderstorm (Nuhualpilli)】

【Peerless Heavy Strike】 + 【Consecutive Raging Strikes】 + 【Wild Dance of Heavy Blows】 = 【Surging Destructive Fists of Flesh Crushing】

【Grand Cross】 + 【Cross Slash】 = 【Grand Cross Smash】

【Silent Stab】 + 【Stab】 + 【Armor Pierce】 = 【Silent Pierce】

【Storm Wind】 + 【Slicing Wind】 = 【Heavy Storm Wind】

【Aura Slash】 + 【Heavy Slash】 = 【Heavy Aura Slash】

Day 122: Sidestory Guild Master's POV

Oh, Good morning Ririchia-san! There's something tight under my waist today. It sure does look funny with my belly sticking out.

What? Sexual harrrassment? You don't hate it though. This is just skinship between a superior and his subordinate. It's just a simple physical contact. Nothing malicious about it.

How about you resheathe the knife you got there. Dont you have a duty to protect me? What a shame, you're just nice to look at. Is that knife coated with poison? Please don't come close to me with that. Since I'm low level, a small cut will kill me instantly.

Ah there we go thank you for putting that away. Ok, so it might have been a slight sexual harrassment, but you frowning is such a shame. I like it better if you smile. you're a lot cuter when you smile. You really should laugh more as well, you're beautiful when you smile.

Oh, are you blushing? or are you just tired? If you think you're going to catch a cold, try and rest today. After all, the situation with the Minotaur has been a stressful and unsual circumstance for you Ririchia-san. Rest well okay. In order to slay the Minotaur, I sent a Raid party in the morning, if I sent them in the afternoon, people would just make more unnecessary commotion.

What? You're not tired? Well, okay then, I guess we need to finish our work. I sure hope I survive you forcing me to work. So what do we have to do today? What? Accumulated paperwork? This sure is hard work.

Someone wants to see me? Well, i need to show that I'm a good Guildmaster. My intuition has served me well over the years being a Guildmaster, and I've never felt anything like this before. As I greeted this demonic creature before me, I tried apprasing him and could not even begin to comprehend such a creature. He seems like

a very high level creature, I don't know if he's concealing his strength, but there are a lot of factors to this.

Well, this situation just became a lot more complicated. Hearing the details about this Minotaur who's not a Dungeon boss, but a creature who leveled up to a minotaur. If this Aporou is telling the truth, then this has really become a hassle. To be truthful about it, I did not even consider the possibiity that it was a Rank Up (Evolution) rather than a dungeon boss. I forgot that it was even possible since such an occurence was so rare. This blunder will land the blame on me.

I don't know how he found out about this incident so quickly, according to my information network, Aporou did not stay in this city yesterday. He just got here. But now there is someone who cares about this minotaur. This information saying that it did not come from the dungeon but from outside the city is an apparent problem I have to deal with. It seems that he is telling the truth about the matter.

The real problem is what happened to the Raid party sent to subdue the minotaur. Maybe some of them survived, though I doubt it. Processing the deaths will be a hassle.

By noontime, everyone was waiting around the exit of the Labyrinth. This is because not a lot of people has ever seen a minotaur before. I have heard that these things were huge. And according to the report, this creature was bigger than expected. Expecting this creature to be a product of a rank-up does not fit the normal common sense. This is not considered to be standard. This is very intimidating. I hope we won't have to fight this creature with the escort squad we've gathered here. Even the strongest Richia-san wouldn't be a match. Everyone was surprised. The Raid party was composed of 16 skilled adventurers. The way they lost was incredibly discouraging. It was really surprising that no one died. Though they all had some very serious injuries. This has been a rather exciting day. Well, regarding me and Aporou, we seem to have built a friendly relationship. I feel that it's on our best interest to keep this relationship...friendly.

Day 123

After morning training, I had asked for an increase in the production of Ghouls generated by Kanami-chan, but the process has been quite slow.

The production through the ability [Intermediate Summoning: Undead] produces higher quality products compared to [Lesser Summoning: Undead].

Although there are some control issues with Ghouls, with Kanami-chan, absolute obedience is displayed to the extent they would commit suicide if ordered.

I decided to invest some time into working with reinforcing the production of Black Skeletons. I ended up working without any rest for roughly seven hours and ended up generating nearly three thousand Black Skeletons. The result produced thirteen Black Skeleton Commanders, four Black Undead Knights, and a new creation of six Black Skeleton Horse Soldiers that represented something similar to a Skeleton Centaur.

Though, the process was only really to produce the thirteen Black Skeleton Commanders and the Black Undead Knights. Out of the Black Skeleton Horse Soldiers, I decided to eat four of them.

Ability unlocked [Soul Eater (Ghost Bite)]

Ability unlocked [Stench Tolerance]

Ability unlocked [Black Undead Knight's Cloth]

Ability unlocked [Black Bone Army Commander]

Ability unlocked [Undead Knight's Lineage]

The [Soul Eater] seemed like a useful ability that i'll need to test out later.

Then after I had eaten them, I tried to modify two of the Black

Undead Knights that were [Scarfaces] and the remaining Black Skeleton Horse Soldiers using [Synthesis] and [Bone Union].

I changed the upper body that was like that of a human being of the Black Skeleton Horse Soldier into a form that imitated a dragon-head type gargoyle.

There were a few gaps in the black bone that was like the splendid horse.

With the Scarface, I removed the lower half of the body and performed further remodeling of the splendid horse using the black bones of the lower body though there weren't enough to finish the product so I had to scrap a few things for the parts. I then began connecting the splendid horse and the Scarface together.

The natural weapons such as the spear types began to develop from the four pairs of arms coming from the body. The Black aura armor began to cover the body and it began to grow a bit stiff.

Currently, the Scarface gives off the feel of being something like a [Black Undead Dragoon Knight].

The upper body is that of the Black Undead Knight and the lower body is that of the splendid horse-like centaur. It's pretty intense, and above all else, it's huge.

It's height is at least four meters, maybe more and it also has excellent mobility with the lower body of the splendid horse. The eight-armed upper body and the lower body of a horse offered a large variety of attack possibilities.

The [Scarface] seemed to be far stronger.

Hmm, this might be beneficial in the long run. Since the remodeling of the Black Skeletons was more enjoyable than I thought, I think I'll give working with the Giants a try. Come to think of it, [Lesser Summoning: Undead] and [Lesser Summoning: Giant] are both summoning type abilities, I wonder if I might be able to combine them. I wonder if I might be able to create Giant Skeletons.

I'm anxious, but I decided to go to bed because I was pretty sleepy

today.

Day 124

After the morning training and lunch, Minokichi and his group returned home.

Immediately upon his return, Minokichi-kun requested to spar and since I was highly interested in Minokichi-kun's growth, I simply couldn't reject it.

I quickly set up a special arena and we'll be able to have our first match in a long time.

Sternbild Kingdom has the Four Symbolic Heroes, and the Kirika Empire has the Eight Great Knights. This forest existed on the edge of the border between these two nations.

1200 years ago, the godly existence Noboru Rank Up into a Demigod of Deep Green where he met the Fairy King Gufusuto.

Genaha was born within the temple where he lived and died.

After 1200 years had passed since the godly existence of Noburu had Rank Up, the emission of the [Divine Power] of the event was still present within the Kuuderun Great Forest.

The Elves who had their bodies far more in tune with nature than humans understood that the forest was far different compared to others and lived within it peacefully.

Because of certain circumstances of the allied forces of the Empire and the Kingdom, they invaded the forest of the Elves. But these forces were repelled by the help of the mighty and wise Ogres living deep within the Mysterious forest and peace was regained once more.

But the scars of war remained deeply carved unto several places of Kuuderun Great Forest.

Due to the presence of the Demigod of Deep Green's remnant

[Divine Power], the growth of the trees and forest material was far faster than normal. The scars of war would be healed within several months.

In one part of this mysterious forest, the ironclad stronghold of the Mercenary Company Parabellum existed.

When the sun reached the highest point, the construction of a flat External Training Field had been formed. With walls nearly twenty meters in height and a cylindrical hole within the ground with a diameter of nearly 130 meters, the zone looked quite similar to that of the Colosseum of the Ancient Roman Empire.

It was here that two great beasts would face each other.

One of these two demons was holding the red spear [Starving Impaler of a Thousand Thorns] upon his shoulder.

There, Aporou stood with his mighty silver arm, three horns upon his head, a deep black aura exuding from his presence, true to his name as Yatendouji.

Before him stood a creature of ghastly vigor and strength. In one hand was the mightly spirit axe [Scorching Acquittal Axe] and the spirit forged tower shield [Minotaur's Thunder Flame Shield].

Before Aporou stood the mighty Minokichi-kun who stood as a subspecies of the Minotaur. Lightning crackled from his breath as he stood towering over his opponant, true to his name as the [Lightning Bull Emperor Keraunos].

Both of them were letting out an obvious feeling of anxiety and excitement, betraying their excitement were two awfully belligerent smiles.

"It's been quite some time since we last fought, hasn't it, Minokichi-kun? However, it seems just as always, you have once again become very strong."

"That is right, I fight alone in the bottom of the labyrinth for increasing power and skill. In comparison, I see before me someone stronger. All I am in order to become equal to you, Aporou, and to

beat you.”

“Oh? Equal to me?”

“That is so. That I become equal to Aporou, my true lifelong friend. Therefore, need much power.”

They exchanged words.

There were no lies from Minokichi-kun’s words, they were powerful words that let those people who heard them understand his true intentions.

Because of those good willed feelings, Aporou became embarrassed of the situation and changed his expression. Scratching his cheek with his silver arm’s finger that made a crunching sound as he did so.

“Is that right? Hmmm… Well, I’m fully motivated at this point, so let’s stop our reminiscence here and begin.”

Aporou fixed his breathing and reinforced his will, pointing his red spear towards the direction of Minokichi-kun’s heart.

On the other hand, Minokichi-kun’s axe and shield were set into motion, as the response to Aporou’s question.

“Nevertheless, as always, an admirable posture… But…”

“But?”

“This time, it shall be my victory!!”

“Ha ha! How very interesting. Then, I shall use my full power from the very start, prepare yourself!”

The two mutually reliant friends exchanged a grand and warm smile.

Then, as if the tension itself had been severed, the fight began with a great roar from Minokichi.

“The……..!?”

It was an aggressive roar like that of an explosion.

It held an extraordinarily powerful roar that caused ripples within the very earth surrounding the two. This caused weaker earth and stones to rumble and life from the ground from the tremors. The sheer intensity of the roar caused those of weaker minds to faint from just the impact of the roar, even Aporou's movements had been dulled for the briefest of seconds.

One could have perhaps even died from fear if the difference between the two had been too great, that was the effect of the roar of such a level.

It was just then that Aporou selected the very same type of roar as the necessary counterattack.

From the various abilities that he had obtained, dozens were floating around in his brain, and the one that was selected was [Black Demon's Roar].

"----------da!!"

Normally, Minokichi-kun, who was basically a Minotaur, should have won in the roar confrontation easily.

As there is a limit to the volume in which Aporou's body is capable of producing as a member of the Ogre race, the [Roar] which was treated as an attack should not have been able to defeat a Minotaur's.

However, as it is an ability known to Aporou as [Black Demon's Roar], such common sense is shattered, and the volume that would originally have never been possible for Aporou was attained.

His roar was such that as Thunder itself.

The roars of both sides collide, negating each other and the energy escaping from both Aporou and Minokichi-kun created earth shattering crevices forming exactly at the halfway point between the two.

[Paralyze] and [Fear] are two abilities that have an abnormal invisible attack that gives a person who encounters it a bad status condition that violates the mind and body.

For the members who were watching the battle between Aporou and Minokichi-kun from a great distance, the percentage of those who fainted due to the after effects were 50%, with another 40% no longer capable of movement and were frozen on the spot.

But, a simple judgement from Minokichi-kun and Aporou suggested that such a roar was merely a greeting for them.

Aporou and Minokichi-kun did not experience any bad statuses due to both attacks having counterbalanced each other.

“Buumooooooo…..ooooo……ooooooooooo!”

The two roars stop, and Minokichi-kun was once again the one who made his move.

While achieving a courageous shout of war and spirit, Minokichi-kun drove himself forward, placing his momentum upon his shield that dawned the head of a golden cow. His axe raised above his shoulder, he rushed full tilt towards Aporou.

The attack Minokichi-kun used, however, was an attack that Aporou was highly familiar with. The path of the attack was clear and the skill was all too well known.

The attack that Minokichi-kun was using was a simple, yet strong attack. It was a technique that Aporou taught Minokichi-kun who often chose to use it.

It was a technique that was used to rush in to close the distance between oneself and the opponent, preventing enemy attacks with a massive shield and driving one’s own body into the enemy’s space to break their stance and disrupt their posture. In the final moment, the axe is lowered and a devastating strike with all of one’s strength is delivered.

It’s a basic attack that anyone who uses a shield and axe would train to use commonly.

Therefore, Aporou was well informed of the actions required to defeat the attack presented to him.

Though, the speed of the attack was different to what Aporou had known Minokichi-kun commonly used. The weight was different, the power output was off and the scale was changed.

There were various incidents that occurred before Aporou.

Out of the Golden wool-like lower part of Minokichi-kun came a crackling sound and a golden thunderbolt with each step that crushes the ground.

Hoof by hoof, he pressed his massive figure forward, the situation that developed was just like a bombardment.

From the head of the axe that was still perched upon his shoulder, white flames began to surge forth and his advance drastically increased in speed.

Quite similar to that of a booster, Minokichi's speed accelerated explosively.

The atmosphere was torn up by Minokichi-kun, a shockwave occurred. It stood the proof that his speed had exceeded the very speed of sound. A destructive storm scattered the surroundings, a shaking tail of light that was ever expanding, the trace of golden thunder and white flames erupting from the center.

Minokichi-kun’s speed had long since exceeded the speed of sound, after that point, only the sound is left as it approached Aporou.

Because he had become a Minotaur and gained great power and the divine protection of several gods. Minokichi-kun’s attack reached the point where it was no longer visible.

“That is certainly fast!”

Currently, Aporou as an Apostle Lord has excellent perceptual abilities and with his ability [Speed Parallel Thinking] combined with Aporou’s perception and experience, the movements of the causal world was as if everything was moving in slow motion.

In Aporou’s world, if a bullet were fired out of a high powered rifle, to him, it would be the same as if it had stopped the moment Aporou

got serious.

Even then, Minokichi-kun moved at an abnormal speed.

The twenty meters of space that stood between the two of them would be closed in only several steps, the massive figure ever closing the gap.

The axe was swung, lowered vigorously with a great roar. Everything would be felled before the mighty strike, anything touched would be annihilated instantly.

It was like a massive rock feel down.

Aporou used his red spear [Starving Impaler of a Thousand Thorns] to receive it while deflecting the momentum of the strike. The result succeeded in blocking the approaching overhead blow.

The axe collided with the red spear and a harsh, abnormal sound was heard, sparks scattered all across the battlefield and the glorious white flames raged out of the head as it crashed into the red spear.

Aporou's head was instantly covered with a torrent of white flames, though this was only for an instant. While Aporou had parried the axe from where it would have normally hit the body, his head was burned from the white flames. His flesh and blood creaked from the shock of the axe creating an impact.

Though the pressure of the strike in no way managed to cut him, the hit still sunk him roughly ankle deep into the soil.

If Aporou was not equipped with the red spear but instead of the halberd created by Blacksmith-san, he would not have been able to block the strike and would have been cut.

But, since it was the red spear, the power was able to be diverted to the side without being broken.

Regardless, it was an attack far superior compared to before. Aporou was both astonished and excited about it.

"Ha ha! Excellent Minokichi-kun, as expected, you certainly are the

best!”

The axe that was blocked from it’s initial target met the ground with a crash.

It crushed the ground and the surrounding shock sent rocks at the speed of bullets.

The rocks collided with his skin, but didn’t do anything in particular, Aporou simply didn’t feel any pain.

Aporou, who didn’t suffer any damage, turned to counter attack immediately, but the white flames and the golden thunder that erupted from the head of the axe burned the surroundings and the range of destruction greatly expanded.

Aporou’s movements had dulled slightly from the surprise of this instant.

Minokichi-kun now had three [Divine Protections]: [Divine Protection of the Demigod of Fire], [Divine Protection of the Demigod of War], and [Divine Protection of the God of TLightning], these were the golden thunder and white flames from the Demigod of Fire and God of Lightning which granted Minokichi-kun their power.

But because Aporou ate the Red Bear, he also received the [Divine Protection of the Demigod of Fire], though even with this, receiving such a strong flame with a [Divine Protection] alone would be difficult, even with his overlapping abilities would have caused trouble.

Of course there was a reason why Minokichi-kun was able to use such strong thunderous flames.

When he became the new variant of the Minotaur species, he obtained a factor that greatly raised the power of his axe strikes.

It was an ability unique to him and the effect was great, it was called [One who becomes an Axe] and another ability he had gained was called [Thunder Flames of the God of Murder] that greatly increases the power of his thunder flame attacks.

Minokichi-kun loves to use his [Scorching Acquittal Axe] which holds a unique ability [Fire that Burns the Sinful].

Though, the factor that aided him the most would certainly be his high affinity with the fire attribute.

The power that Minokichi-kun has obtained was something that could even equal Aporou's strength. It was something clearly visible from that situation.

Normally, with just a single blow the battle would have been settled.

Even if one were to be able to avoid the strong swing, the combined powers of the great white flames and the golden thunder released after the mighty blow would have been enough to slay any normal enemy.

In the first place, just the strike from the great axe would have been enough to make just about any opponent pass out.

To be able to either block, or even dodge the attacks from the current Minokichi-kun, there could be no member in all of Parabellum besides Aporou himself capable of such a feat.

Even if one were to prevent being hit by the axe itself, what awaits you afterwards are the brutal white flames and golden thunder.

However, because Aporou had [Null Electric Damage] his body was not burned by the golden thunder that surged upon him. No matter how strong the golden thunder was, the [Thunder and Lightning] strike could not and would not affect the great Aporou.

But that was not to say that he was invincible. Even with the [Divine Protection of the Demigod of Fire] and [Complete Fire Resistance] the damage of the white flames of an unnaturally super-high temperature was not nullified completely.

It's only natural since Aporou lacked any ability to fully nullify it, thus even by reducing the damage, he would still take some damage.

Aporou's hair was burnt by the strong white flames as well as part of his cheek and forehead were severely burnt. There was the smell of

burning and the sound of his left eyeball splitting from being completely burnt was heard.

Aporou's face was in a great deal of pain from having his left eye crushed and so instinctively used [Hyper Speed Regeneration]. The skin which had festered and burnt away had been cured as if time itself were reversed.

The burnt skin and eyeball regenerated in the blink of an eye and any damage that had been dealt was negated.

But in this briefest of instances, not only did Aporou prevent the attack, but also went on the counterattack.

"Don't just focus down on the opponent, consider the entire battlefield."

While giving advice was his everyday habit, Aporou had started to form both water and earth spears behind Minokichi-kun.

At the same time, his silver hand collides with Minokichi-kun's shield. The dull sound that occurred as the shield intercepted the approaching strike.

Both combatants felt the shock throughout their entire body.

Just at that moment, Aporou executes the water and earth attacks with the spears.

While considering that Minokichi-kun would be focusing on the front, Aporou's standard attacking method was to attack at the same time with both attacks from the front, back and blind-spots to break his opponent's posture.

It is very difficult to prevent or fight effectivily against this form of attack as it is near impossible for Minokichi-kun to see behind himself, especially considering his opponent at his front.

If it had been the former Minokichi-kun, his posture would have been quite easily broken, however, Minokichi-kun had become far stronger than he had been before.

The sheer increase of power and skill had even slighly escaped

Aporou's expectations, if even only a small margin.

Therefore..

"…The!?" (Aporou)

"BUUUUMOOOOOOOOO----------"

Golden thunder and white flames blew up from Minokichi-kun's entire body.

From behind, the white flames and golden thunder burnt and evaporated the water and earth spears. The pieces blown into the air and at the same time that the silver arm was touching the shield the head of the golden bull had began to shine.

Aporou jumped back instantly to gain some distance, but Minokichi-kun's advance was even faster than Aporou could retreat. He was caught as he could not generate the necessary distance as an illusion-like figure of the golden cow's head was made to as if it was jumping out of the shield.

The illusion of the golden cow pierced, with it's sharp horns, into Aporou's flesh.

The damage was so fierce that it would gouge out one's guts, and because Aporou, who had jumped and was now in the air, could not easily evade it to either the left or the right.

Evading would be very difficult and the hands Aporou had put out to meet the attack was quite limited in their defence.

Even so, Aporou chose to grab it, the illusion, with his silver arm.

As his flesh arm was holding to the red spear, he could not yield such a weapon during this battle.

Although one might say to just simply grab it, that would not be so easy as the sheer speed of Minokichi-kun was exceeding the very speed of sound. The distance between the two only being mere 5 meters, total point blank range.

It would be quite normal to say that one would be killed instantly

getting run over by such an attack, even if you were to catch it. The power from it hitting your body would pierce it easily.

However, Aporou had managed in catching it, if only because of his previous experiences with the mighty Minokichi-kun, and the fact that the silver arm which he had used to catch it didn't even move a millimeter from the spot.

With this, Aporou had managed to barely prevent the attack.

But, because it is difficult to keep one's overall balance onto a single point, Aporou pushed the lower end of the right spear into the shield. The silver arm and the red spear, which are on two different points, prevent the horns of the golden cow from reaching Aporou.

However, Aporou is still floating in mid-air and Minokichi-kun was not stopping there.

"OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO----------!!!"

Minokichi-kun advances with the very same speed as before, kicking the earth beneath him.

With white flames blowing out from the head of the axe, and the golden thunder surging from his golden hair, his remarkable speed was displayed.

The sound of the burst was heard, the sensation and explosion sound of the sound wall being broken, Aporou's [Sense Area] made the massive wall approaching from behind visible.

As it seemed Minokichi-kun wanted to throw Aporou into the wall.

Aporou is thrown into the wall, and not only that, but the shield itself crushes into the wall as well.

Aporou's body was nearly crushed by the illusion, but was narrowly stopped with the silver hand.

The damage even was passed through Aporou into the wall.

So fast and strong were the muscles of Minokichi-kun.

There seemed to be no chance for Aporou to win with only defense.

It was then that a small smile floated on Aporou's face.

"There's no longer any need to go easy on you anymore."

Aporou used one of his best abilities, one that he didn't think he would have to use, [Great Power of the Black Demon].

Because he recognized Minokichi's strength, and also because his own fighting instincts told him to, Aporou took position.

The air instantly began to fill with a dreadful intimidating air.

Even being only a single ability, one should not approach it.

It gives off the sense that you should not, nay, must not fight against it as it is simply too much for you.

Naturally, Minokichi-kun also notices the drastic change in Aporou. The moment that he noticed the change in the air, a cold sweat began to pour down from him, and in that moment of realization, Minokichi-kun chose to pay it no mind and strike to rush Aporou.

He can't stop now, he surely won't be able to achieve victory if he gives even a moment of hesitation. As Aporou's body isn't in mid-air anymore and one of his hands is occupied holding the horn, he thought it would be difficult to defend with his current body posture.

However, Aporou used [Gravity Law] allowing the tip of his foot to touch the ground. His posture was something close to tiptoeing, but it was enough for Aporou.

"Here it comes" (Aporou)

[Great Power of the Black Demon] is an ability that gave him the strength to even stop Minokichi-kun's movements. Aporou's body sinks, yet even so, the silver arm that was holding onto the illusion didn't change it's position from the start.

As a result.

"Counter!?" (Minokichi-kun)

With the flow of power changing with a sudden, yet terrific force, Minokichi-kun's gigantic body was easily sent flying back into the air.

A voice full with feelings of surprise was clearly heard.

Minokichi-kun's body was turning, over and over again in a straight vertical direction. Minokichi-kun was not able to recognize the difference between heaven and Earth as he was unable to regain his posture in air, with the most likely ending resulting in him crashing back down to Earth.

The energy required to move such a heavy object is enormous, but all that energy will disappear the moment that it hits the ground. In other words, Minokichi-kun will stop when he crashes into the ground.

The chance for a counterattack that had previously been impossible had now appeared, and it was not something that Aporou would miss.

"...Shaaaa"

Aporou began to unleash one ability after another.

[Aero Master] to create thirty lumps out of wind, [Gravity Law] allowed him to perform high-speed attacks using the gravity.

In an instant, all of the lumps formed of wind smashed into Minokichi-kun just as he came hit the ground, proceeding to prevent Minokichi-kun from regaining his composure. The continuous dull sound similar to a huge hammer hitting a bad chunk of meat rang out throughout the arena.

"Buuumooo!!!"

A voice full of pain began to leak out.

One of the main characteristics of the Minotaur species is their incredibly tough body wherein Minokichi-kun has a remarkably tough one.

As for the attack, it was one that was meant to be able to pierce metal armor with a single blow.

The power of each impact was heavily reduced because Minokichi-kun's entire body was covered with a strong muscular armor so the attack itself couldn't cause massive damage.

The heavy battering on the mighty Minokichi-kun had, however, proved just effective enough to keep him in one place.

Since Minokichi-kun couldn't move, Aporou closed the distance and made a strike with the red spear.

With the tip of the spear, he cut the atmosphere and the sound of impact rang true.

The blow from the red spear that was aimed towards Minokichi-kun's left shoulder was just barely blocked with the massive shield. The sparks rang out in a massive array, but Aporou's attacks didn't stop.

The spear was drawn once more, and repeatedly thrust at the target.

A red light began to emit from the tip of the red spear as the speed of the spear increased well over a hundred times.

[Aporou battle technique [Arts] [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] was activated]

[With the battle technique [Arts] [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] spear effectivity is increased]

Following this, Aporou activated both [Job - Master Spearman] and [Spear King].

Both are high level [Arts] which can only be utilized at the higher levels of an individual's [Job] wherein the spear is the main combat weapon.

This originally gave humans the possibility to exceed their physical strength and speed limitations at the cost of the user's stamina.

If it were to be used in a state where the user was near death, there would be a high chance that the user would die as a result of the backlash.

Because the technique that Aporou had used, [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] is exceptionally strong, it goes to an even higher class of [Arts] than compared to most others.

But, due to the fact that Aporou's body is substantially stronger than that of a human being, while using [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] his stamina is only slightly reduced. In addition, after cutting off the technique, he only requires several seconds before he can recover to his original state with no long-standing side-effects.

The heavy red spear was thus greatly strengthened through Aporou's [Arts] and collided with Minokichi-kun's shield. At the moment of impact, an abnormal sound erupted with a flash of light.

This nigh impossible scene between two monsters of battle was unraveling before all of the members of Parabellum. Everyone, excluding Aporou's children, were at a complete and utter loss for words at the spectacle before them.

The red flashes from Aporou's red spear attacks held such enormous power that each blow would be fatal simply by itself. If it were not for Minokichi-kun's extremely high durability, he would never have been able to endure such an onslaught.

This scene was also the very first time Aporou had ever been forced into a situation where he showed his hidden strength, his combat [Arts] and special abilities to everyone.

There was a law within this world that "Only a human can have a [Job] as one's [Ability]".

[Arts] allow humankind to match the great and mighty existences of the giants and dragons, it was granted upon them by the [Gods] and their greatest [Blessing].

Therefore, no other species are able to gain a [Job] or access the combat [Arts].

But now, right before the eyes of everyone in the battle arena, Aporou had just overthrown the Laws of the world that they had all known.

Such a scene was shown before them. The surprise of the scene for Rusty Iron Knight and the Female Knight was something so unimaginable they were at a total loss for words.

“””How is that possible…””” - Many began to mutter.

Those fragile voices quickly began to fade as their full attention began to seep back within the spectacle before them. The crash of sound created from Aporou’s combat [Arts] [100 Blossoms of 1000 Spears] slammed into Minokichi-kun’s shield.

“Look now Minokichi-kun, I’ll stop holding back now if only a little, prepare yourself!”

From the sheer weight of each blow, Aporou gradually began to push through Minokichi-kun’s defences through the use of the combat [Arts] [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] combined through the synergetic bonuses of several other abilities.

As a result, the simple calculation of the situation corresponds to an approximate multitude of twice as many hits.

A red afterimage from the spear grew darker and the impacts began to start damaging the surface of the spear, because of the sheer magnitude of these strikes, Minokichi-kun’s arm holding the shield had to bear a serious load.

If it wasn’t for Minokichi-kun’s strong body, a hole would have been created within several seconds.

With too much strength invested into the attacks, the red spear could also have been damaged. This attack, however, was quickly approaching it’s end as Aporou’s endurance was approaching it’s climax. Within combat [Arts] there is a fixed limit within each technique wherein afterwards there is the slightest of openings.

Even for Aporou, who can use the combat [Arts] that none other than humans should have access to, could not change this fact.

With the end of the combat [Arts] there is a small chance to counterattack, which even the greatly weakened Minokichi-kun would never overlook.

However,

“....SSSssssssaaaaaaaaah” (Aporou)

Aporou began to use another ability [Continuation Thrust]

A constant assault through piercing attacks was created by the use of [Continuation Thrust] and [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] which left no real opening nor chance to counterattack.

The display of attacks shown was only something possible by Aporou, who is capable of using multiple [Abilities] to create original combat [Arts].

“Buuumooooooooooo!??.....” (Minokichi-kun)

The sheer number of piercing attacks could no longer be perceived anymore, it had become a muddy stream. While enduring the attack nothing could be said, as the brutality continued, even the mighty Minokichi-kun could only release a groan.

Praising the enemy while piercing into the frame, the muddy stream of brutal piercing attacks scatters the meat into pieces. While the shield managed to block most of the attacks, some of the meat exposed around the shield was severely chipped away from Minokichi-kun’s limbs. Minokichi-kun’s leg was also greatly damaged.

Beforehand, at Aporou’s feet there was a lump of rock that had been generated. Through the use of [Gravity Law] it was broken off, the wreckage began to rise quickly into the air.

In an instant, more than 100 rock lumps had risen from the surroundings into the air. As for the rock lumps’ sizes, there were small ones and large ones of all sizes from a few centimeters to some of nearly five meters. Some could see it differently, but in reality, one could even compare it to a small gathering of space debris.

“.....!!?”

In this space in time, Aporou’s preparations had been completed and a roar similar to when Minokichi-kun had first collided with the ground

was released. At the same time, white flames and golden thunder once more blew out from his entire body.

The thunder flames wrapped around Aporou's entire body since he was near him, but there was little to no real effect this time around. Even with this, the continuous attack from the [100 Blossoms 1000 Spears] and [Continuation Thrust] had not stopped even for a moment.

The appearance of Minokichi-kun's body had momentarily disappeared from Aporou's view due to the thunder flames, they had more or less become a slight barrier from the piercing onslaught.

For only that instant, a small gap could be seen between attacks, and Minokichi-kun using all of his might, forced himself from his back. It was an action only possible because Aporou's attacks had, for just that moment, lightened.

As the red spear missed the target it met with the ground and was quickly removed.

The meat from the limbs that had already been gouged from the target, remained where the red spear hit the ground.

Minokichi-kun glanced back for a mere moment to see Aporou instantaneously activating another one of red spear's abilities.

[Unique ability [Bloody Armor of the Shuyari Tepes] triggered].

By executing the ability, dozens of red spear attacks occurred from below Minokichi-kun aiming for his legs.

It was an attack aimed for the sole purpose to, if only temporarily, reduce the great speed of Minokichi-kun that broke the speed of the sound barrier. It is considerably difficult to prevent an ability that attacks from below into a critical blind spot. Without even knowing when one would attack, it was certainly a killing move.

However, from the small glance Minokichi-kun had gained, he seemed to be able to read it as Minokichi-kun's reaction was lightning fast.

Just as the red spear came from the ground, Minokichi-kun's massive body had jumped nearly twenty meters into the sky. What the red spear had struck was only Minokichi-kun's shadow.

As Aporou looked into the sky, there was Minokichi-kun who had raised his axe. It was not difficult to imagine the power that the blow could deliver. Even for Aporou, to receive such a blow directly would be extremely dangerous. Though, Aporou had no intention to be hit by it at all.

With a motion from his hand,

"Go…" (Aporou)

The rocks that had been floating in air were sent flying aimed at Minokichi-kun. The attack was similar to a flying charge, one only needed to change the gravitational pull to send the attack wherever one wanted to. There was yet another purpose for the floating rock lumps, but that is for later.

"Buuumooooooo…"

As the blaze of the rock lumps approached from all sides, Minokichi-kun angled his shield with the hoof of his leg. by changing the angle the rock lumps were intercepted by the shield on, it was as if he was surfing on a wave. The rock lumps were colliding with dull sounds, but were not able to damage the shield because the momentum of the blows were being redirected to lessen the impact.

Minokichi-kun was very dexterous to the nigh impossible point to even make Aporou astonished.

".....oooooooooooooooooooooooo"

The pattern of the golden cow once more began to shine and the illusion of the cow's head appeared.

The remaining rock lumps that were aimed at Minokichi-kun were all crushed and at the same time an attack was launched at Aporou.

Because he had such terrific power, the pebbles that were thrown at him became a rain of rocks. Aporou intertwined with his golden

thread gushing from his fingertips were able to prevent the pebbles as they fell by rotating the centrifugal force and once more launching a counterattack to the falling Minokichi-kun.

In order to deal a great blow to Minokichi-kun, the golden lump of rocks and thread followed an orbit that could not be blocked with the shield. Though there was a brief disappointment as the burning axe cut it open, preventing the pebbles within from delivering a strike. With that, a great deal of the damage aimed at Minokichi-kun was avoided.

“Buuumooooo!!!”

From the frustration, a strong shout filled with anger was released from Minokichi-kun.

As the massive figure of anger reached the ground, the impact felt like the release of all of the built up feelings all at once as the axe was swung down. The energy that was gained while falling, and the weight of all of his equipment that figured out to well over 1 ton, combined with the supernatural muscular strength that came from him being a Minotaur, created a grand explosion as it fell. There might be other various reasons, but at the end, the extensive destruction was created by Minokichi-lun.

As Minokichi-kun landed, the ground shook as if a meteor had landed. The shield that had been used like a surfboard sunk deeply into the ground and an abnormal dust cloud was raised.

Aporou had almost lost his footing due to the shaking ground, but quickly recovered.

It was certain that most living beings would have been killed should they have received such an impact, however, the problem was not the heavy shield crushing down upon the earth, but the attack from the axe that had buried itself halfway into the ground.

Golden white thunderous flames from the head of the axe demonstrated the full power of destruction as they blew up from the underground, creasing fissures as if several huge snakes had been summoned forth.

It might have still been alright if it had been just that.

However, from his anger, Minokichi-kun swung his axe back downward with the thunderous flames.

Even the ground being casually destroyed left Minokichi-kun seeming unsatisfied and the thunderous flames were launched forth into the heavens for further destruction.

As the cracks on the ground began to shine a golden white, they erupted. A pillar of thunderous flames blew up from the sky and ground, meeting together and exploding in a fantastic spectacle.

The range had taken up the entire arena, leaving Aporou no space for escape.

The remaining lumps of rock that had still floated within the sky were shattered by the thunderous flames and disappeared while being burned away.

Even while his body was being engulfed with the thunderous flames, Aporou manipulated the current of the air such that the thunderous flames did not inflict harm upon the nearby members.

Minokichi-kun's thunderous flames were blown together in the center of the arena.

At any rate, Minokichi-kun's attack was not only focused at Aporou, in his anger, it had been so powerful that it would have extended great damage to a majority of the crowd.

-If I had done nothing, nearly 70% of those watching would have failed to get out of range in time, if I wasn't lucky, it could have been a severe death toll…

It was a grand scale, high level wide-range attack with an unbelievable attack power.

After several seconds, the pillars of thunderous flames finally disappeared.

Cough* *Cough* "… Oh, Minokichi-kun, have you cooled your head yet?"

Even after all of that, Aporou hadn't gotten close to death. The golden thunder had no affect to Aporou, however, he was somewhat damaged by the white flames.

However, because of [Hyper Speed Regeneration] he had recovered immediately, so he wasn't in any danger.

"Although it hurts slightly, i'll endure it for now." (Aporou)

Aporou, who had just endured Minokichi-kun's attack, was at the limit of his patience.

As it was a fight between Aporou and Minokichi-kun, being attacked was not the problem at all. It was a rather natural thing, so one should generally not get angry. The anger, however, had not come from that.

The reason for Aporou's anger was due to Minokichi-kun, without any thought at all, had used an attack of such a grand scale that it would have involved the other members.

Minokichi-kun, who is a commander and is in a position to lead subordinates, drew out, without thinking, an attack that could have killed his subordinates.

"Grrrrrr….. Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaa……" (Aporou)

In the distance, Minokichi-kun had come to and muttered "What… have I done…", at the same time Aporou, at the end of his patience, triggered [Black Ogre's Evil Eye] and [Black Demon's Dignity]. As a result, Minokichi-kun's movements dulled remarkably.

More than half of Minokichi-kun's large axe remained buried underground, with his massive shield completely buried at his feet.

Though, normally one might have just easily pulled them out, but because of Aporou, Minokichi-kun's movements were exceptionally slow.

While storing his spear into the item box, Aporou dashed towards Minokichi-kun at full speed. Even after the body had jumped with [Great Power of the Black Demon], it accelerated even further.

Combined with [Black Demon's Charge] his speed fully surpassed Minokichi-kun's. Aporou arrived at Minokichi's position past the speed of sound, the distance instantly being covered.

[Giant's Iron Hammer] appeared in Aporou's arms and [Destructive Fists of Flesh Crushing Rage] was put into action.

In addition to two or more abilities that were used to strengthen Aporou's fists, they vanished from Minokichi-kun's view. Such a speed is simply impossible for mere eyes to comprehend.

He didn't have enough time to gather his shield, and as he determined that, Minokichi-kun forcibly pulled his axe from the ground with both hands to harden his defense. It was in that moment that Aporou's attack exploded.

The huge fist passed through Minokichi-kun's right flank, bypassing his defenses. A ridiculous power that smashed through Minokichi-kun's hide and broke the ribs easily.

The left arm crashed into Minokichi-kun's chest. It was only due to Minokichi-kun's defense that he survived, if it had been a regular human being, the broken ribs would have pierced into the lungs and other internal organs due to the sheer force of the blow.

The right shoulder defended by his axe was then hit, and even though it was largely defended by the axe, the humerus was still broken to the point of piercing outside of the skin from the sheer force.

The left side of his head that had become defenseless was hit, the brain was shaken and a crack ran along the skull from the strike.

Finally, a direct hit to the upper part of the jaw was released, one of Minokichi-kun's fangs was crushed and scattered to the surroundings. The massive body of Minokichi-kun was whirled up off of his feet.

The massive body of Minokichi-kun flew into the sky for a few seconds, after which, it landed outside the arena and fell to the ground with an awfully dull plopping sound.

The place where he landed changed color. At the place where he landed, several bones were protruding from Minokichi-kun's body and a large quantity of blood was flowing out.

Due to the serious injuries, as anyone could determine, he should not be able to continue fighting because of the serious damage that had been done.

However, Minokichi-kun stood up as if it were nothing. All of the members who had been observing the scene from outside of the arena, especially the human members, were astonished as to what had just happened. Thunderous flames started to blow out of Minokichi-kun's wounds and the serious injuries were healed within seconds.

The fang that had been broken fell out and a new fang grew in it's place. The bones that protruded from the skin crackled as they re-entered Minokichi-kun's body and the ribs that should be piercing his internal organs crackled as they went back into place.

Even with the Minotaur race's proud and mighty vitality, Minokichi-kun's recovery power was simply unbelievable. It was proof that Minokichi-kun's regeneration power was near, if not equal to that of Aporou's.

The Minokichi-kun that had recovered, never had let go of his axe as he was beaten. He re-entered the arena and after setting his posture, he dashed onwards again.

Minokichi-kun collected his shield on the way. From Aporou's view, it seemed as if a massive figure began pushing out his shield before him. There was still some way to go before they collided, but Minokichi-kun's smile could be easily seen from the shadow behind his shield.

It's only natural, looking at the shield before him, Aporou saw Minokichi-kun and received him with a smile.

The red spear was taken back out, the axe swung down, the red spear intercepted it, a clash, a flash of light and a shockwave flashed forth.

The aftermath of the scattered and indiscriminate destruction, the ground was torn to pieces, gravel being shot like arrows, the atmosphere screaming with tension.

Both monsters clashing just as before. As the axe and spear clashed, sparks flew out and the roaring sound of the battle swept through the entire forest.

After Minokichi-kun returned, we continued to spar all day.

As the battle with Minokichi-kun reached the end, the stars and moon had already reached the top of the night's sky.

I was extremely tired. Because of the great amount of fatigue, both Minokichi and myself spent that night in the External Training Field.

Ahh, the starlit sky was beautiful.

I got slightly nostalgic for a battle in outer space...

Day 124 Sidestory: Female Mantis Humanoid's POV

In front of my eyes the Leader and the Vice-Leader are fighting. The fight that is unfolding in the circular fighting arena build in the External Training Field, is so terrific that it is difficult to understand it at all.

Even for me who has superior movement vision because of my compound eyes, the exchange of attacks is too fast to be visible. The Leader who did not show his serious punches during training, is now piling them in succession and a red hollow trace is visible in mid-air.

The massive battleaxe of the Vice-Leader swung down, and with the thunder flames crushed in to the ground, blasting the surroundings. Running at an unbelievable speed for such a massive figure, making everyone looking think that the Vice-Leader moved in an instant, he clashed at the Leader with that speed, however unknowing as to what happened the charging Vice-Leader was blown away. He rotated many times and crashed into the ground. And the Leader who pursued with an attack, however I was not able to understand what was going on.

The fight as it continued even after that, was dominated by the Leader’s flow from beginning to the end. But because it was dangerous, only a small portion of the executives were able to watch it till the last minute, it was regrettable.

I too wanted to see it till the last minute, but as it turned out that way, it was impossible. We who were only watching were left half-dead because of the aftermath of the attack, speaking of the terribleness of fight that spread a little.

What did I feel as I saw the fight, after only the Leader could be seen at the bottom?

The Leader is a monster in Arts. Enough of a monster to

incapacitate me barehanded even as I am wrapped in a solid exoskeleton. What would happen if such an existence used a weapon? I can easily imagine it.

Moreover the Leader has racial abilities as [Divine Protection】 that I cannot possibly explain, as he used powers that I cannot understand, even the one that opposes him is not permitted to compete. It is only possible to human beings to ever use 【Arts】, yet he used them, this was outside of my comprehension.

But as I am seeing it, my abdomen became hot, and only then it could be said that it was clear.

Wanting to leave a strong descendant, was my instinct. The Mantis began voluntary training. The Mantis is in heat. After having sex, the Mantis kills her male mate by eating him. The Mantis is not mistress material.

Day 125

Early this morning, while sleeping in the arena, I was awoken by a voice from the communication cuff.

It was Supesei-san and Burasato-san with a message:

“We have gained a great deal of treasure and information.”

Admittedly, still half asleep due to my exhaustion from the day before I asked,

“What’s this all of a sudden?”

It appears that they had killed some human thieves and had taken their treasures. However, it seems they had ‘invested’ it all on excellent weapons and grimoires without giving any thought to the consequences.

While swearing to never entrust the fund management of the settlement to these two, I decided to share a bit of information with them.

You remember the goblins that couldn’t accept my leadership and had previously left the group?

They were the ones that were given mythril knives as a parting gifts. At the time, I had demonstrated the blade’s sharpness by cutting my finger and using the blood that was spilled, attached a small clone to it.

While those guys were moving, I was able to fill in more and more of my mental map of this area.

At any rate, it seems that several days ago, they were finally attacked by some humans and slaughtered.

It’s unfortunate that they were not able to win, even though they were equipped with the mythril knives. They were killed by a group of fairly competent thieves, all of their treasures were taken.

I decided to feed the information about the group of thieves to the two.

Even if the information on other groups such as thieves is good, since they killed several of my acquaintances, I can't say I hold any warm feelings for these thieves.

After I finished my explanation, I decided to go back to sleep.

The next time I awoke, Minokichi-kun approached me and requested to spar again. Because of that, I continued to spar with him throughout the morning. Despite being incredibly heavy, he's quite fast. This, combined with the special flame and lightning attacks he continuously unleashes makes Minokichi-kun quite the formidable opponent. In addition to that, it seems that as I took more of his attacks, it became more and more difficult for my [Resistances] to defend against his onslaught.

In the afternoon, I went to Blacksmith-san and the dwarves' place so I could start production of various items. I wanted to try to make a gun that uses gunpowder, however,due to various reasons, I decided to abandon this idea.

I'll have to come up with something else.

Perhaps I could use spirit stones and magic to solve this problem by creating a Spirit Stone Gun or a Magic Gun, however, it would be quite troublesome if these or the mere idea of such weapons to fall into the wrong hands.

Perhaps I could install a failsafe into these items, something like "Cannot be used unless you are a member of the group."

While I was contemplating that, I took a break at the Leprechaun's place in order to create a special coat of arms for the settlement to use.

Well… given that I don't really have any artistic ability… I had a women with [Job - Painter] take care of the design.

The design instructions for the work was simply to create a deformed black ogre with three horns baring it's fangs.

Since we didn't have the proper materials for everything we needed, I decided to send out one of the humans that displayed one of the highest levels of obedience to town on a Falaise Eagle to go shopping for supplies.

A Falaise Eagle can carry up to 2 humans or roughly 3 small Goblins.

To note, the ride is not a comfortable one through and it takes a good deal of practice to manage.

Despite that fact, I'm heavily considering capturing even more of them.

After my evening meal, Burasato-san contacted me again to inform me that their hunt on the human thieves was safely completed.

The group of bandits were completely destroyed and they had obtained quite a few precious gems.

Before ending the conversation with her, I told them to come back soon. I had already told the other groups this as well, so everyone should be returning home soon.

The fourth group, which had been having problems with cooperation seems to have finally been able to work together more or less. So that's one problem solved.

As expected, sharing meals with each other and overcoming diversity through life and death situations together are helpful tools to forge strong bonds between one another.

Day 126

Recently it has started to feel like the weather's becoming a bit more chilly.

It seems that a season similar to either fall or winter has finally come.

According to Gobujii's stories, it doesn't seem like this region is likely to experience snow. However, because there are plenty of children and newborns around, I passed off instructions to the leprechauns and their human helpers to start manufacturing some clothing for the cold weather.

In the morning, myself and Minokichi-kun shed plenty of sweat and blood in the [External Training Grounds].

Then in the afternoon I decided to give Auro, Argento and Oniwaka some training.

My eldest daughter Auro and eldest son Argento seem to have inherited both the blood of a human and that of an ogre, making them [Half-Ogres].

They were given names based on the gold and silver orbs they have.

Under normal circumstances, it would be unusual for them to have Ogre orbs, however, I don't think it's that strange considering that they're MY children.

When Auro, uses her orb, a golden longbow appears that uses halberds, of the same color, as projectiles.

When Argento uses his orb, a silver longbow appears that uses partisan pole-arms, of the same color, as projectiles.

It seems that they are both naturally talented with long-distance weaponry such as bows.

With a little training and good effort, they should be able to easily hit

their marks.

Their arrows aren't even ordinary arrows either, I don't really understand how they work, but both the halberds and partisans flew like normal arrows.

So, regardless of whether or not they were actually arrows, I decided to just refer to them as such.

Their power output was rather high as well.

It seems they create these arrows as they draw their bows, and since this is the case, they aren't likely to run out of ammunition.

Given this fact, I could probably take them out into battle pretty soon.

Taking this into account, I decided to teach them plenty of close combat skills for the purpose of defending themselves, even if they were ranged fighters. It is sometimes necessary for an archer to defend themselves should their opponent close the distance on them.

Of course, the halberds and partisan pole-arms could also be used as normal weapons should the need arise.

As for Oniwaka who is a [High Ogre], he's already cleared over 180 centimeters tall.

On top of that, his muscles seem to have developed to such a degree that he's already gained the muscular strength of an adult [[Ogre].

Because of that, I decided to teach him close combat techniques along with the other two.

I also called in Minokichi-kun to aid in their training.

Oniwaka's weapon of choice is a Kanabo, a large club with spikes of pure mithril alloy.

Alot of his equipment resembles Minokichi's initial equipment.

It would seem that he also greatly respects Minokichi-kun which

made me feel a bit lonely as his father.

I have to say, it’s a really satisfying feeling to see your children grow stronger as the days pass.

In the evening, the remaining groups that had gone out finally began returning.

Aside from a male human I had stay out to spy, the rest of Parabellum had finally assembled once again.

Day 127

This morning I decided to host another fighting tournament to decide the current standing of our hierarchy.

However, this time, there was a distinction between official members and provisional members. Also, because these battles were between combat personnel, not every one of our members was required to participate. That being said, because it was a great source of entertainment that our settlement generally lacked, there wasn't a single soul that overlooked the tournament. This created far more activity around than there had been seen up until this point.

The results:

1st Place: Aporou

2nd Place: Minokichi

3rd Place: Kanami

4th Place: Avenger

5th Place: Asue

6th Place: Burasato

7th Place: Supesei

8th Place: Fire Lord-kun

9th Place: Wind Lord-chan

10th Place: Scarface *One of the Black Undead Knights from Day 121, he had greater intelligence*

11th Place: Rusty Iron Knight

12th Place: Suputo (One of the Thunder Dragonnewts)

13th Place: Gurufu-chan

14th Place: The Boss Monkey

15th Place: Redhead

16th Place: Illusion Lord-kun

...etc.

It was a pretty emotional spectacle.

From fighting affinity you had towards your opponent, as well as the changes between battlefields and the changes of various factors that could have affected the outcome of the battles, it drummed up quite a bit of excitement from the members.

That said, it ended up like this this time.

It's important to note that the commanding officer of Prière didn't make it into the higher rankings.

Seiji-kun's race and orientation isn't combat oriented, so it can't be helped that he wasn't able to rank higher.

However, it's a given that the remaining commanding officers were all able to score within the top 10 of the rankings. The rest of the influential members scored themselves within the top twenty.

Although there were various options for assessing people, I omitted them this time, more or less because it's just plain troublesome.

That night after the tournament was over, there was a grand banquet. The meat for the banquet came from several Black Fomorians that I generated.

Yeah, festivals are great after all. The Black Fomorian meat was delicious as well… They were seriously delicious!

Day 128

Today, a request came from the Tomboy Princess .

When we had parted ways with the Princess, I had secretly given her a communication cuff to use whenever she had the need of me, regardless of the time of day. As a result, we've had plenty of conversations, taking place during the morning, afternoon and even at night. However, this is only the second time that she's making a request.

That being said, when the Princess said "I wish to make a request," I sensed some trouble looming.

Is it just me… Or does trouble always come whenever the Princess makes a request of me…. No.. no that can't be right…

Well, to summarize, it seems that the request this time is just to help train the royal guards of the Amber Palace.

Well, we did become acquainted with the palace guards last time when they had joined in the training I was having with Fire Lord-kun and the Boy Knight .

They seemed like decent individuals and they were even able to overcome the human racial barrier to ask to join in on the training of a 'lesser race'.

That said, it's not really a job i'm really looking forward to do.

However, that doesn't mean it's impossible, nor will I be refusing.

The reason is just that i've heard that the First Queen is a deeply zealous individual and I may end up having to take meals with her as well as being held in audience with her at several points.

It's because of this I felt there might be an ulterior motive behind this request.

Moreover, according to my clones, it seems that there may be some

big plan involving the Princess that might be about to go down.

I'm guessing she's intending to get me involved in that.

Although I don't have the specifics yet, this is probably the case in this situation.

That's more or less why i'm worried about whether it's alright for me to take this request.

Our numbers are now past a total of 400, but a majority of them still need more training and to acquire better equipment.

If a troublesome situation occurs and I have to mobilize the entire group, I'm concerned about whether or not we will be able to overcome the crisis. It's still unclear and that's what has me worried.

The reward, however, is not going to be an issue. The reward is a rather extensively large sum after all. Given that it's royalty, that's a given.

The reward this time will be less than what we had received from the escort job, however, it's still considerably higher than the market price for the service requested.

The Princess is certainly our best paying customer to date.

It's not all that surprising though since we haven't had many other clients.

I think i'll wait a little before I decide whether or not to take the request or not.

I ended up spending the rest of the day having another sparring match with Minokichi-kun .

In the evening, since we both had free time, Father Elf and I decided to drink some Elven wine and Labyrinth liquor while soaking in the hot springs.

Although I said we'd drink upon our return, a week had already passed.

Since we both had our own business to take care of, it really couldn't

be helped much.

That being said, since the promise seems to have been fulfilled, there shouldn't be any problems.

However, i'll stick with it when I say that Elven wine is the best.

It really is after all…

That said, you can't take Labyrinth liquor lightly though.

It's a bit unfortunate that it costs quite a bit since it's quite hard to get.

For that reason, i'm sorry to say that Elven wine will remain my favorite.

Hmmm…… It might be a good idea to challenge the labyrinth sometime in search of some seriously high quality liquor. While considering this, I merrily continued drinking with Father Elf.

After some time had passed, Minokichi-kun and Rusty Iron Knight had joined us. The situation had turned into a rather unique drinking party for the higher ranking men. Since the drinking party with the men continued well into the night, Father Elf decided to stay over rather than traverse the forest during the night after drinking a large amount of alcohol.

Day 129

This morning after seeing Father Elf off, I decided it was finally time to get back with the Tomboy Princess.

In the end, I ended up deciding to accept her request.

Currently the financial situation with Parabellum is in a rather delicate state, it's neither good nor bad. Certainly, there's money from the escort job for the Princess that we had done, the selling of monster materials as well as the money we receive on a regular basis from protecting Clute Village and it's residents when they go out to harvest lumber from the forest.

In addition to that, Burasato-san and Supesei-san had returned with quite a bit of treasure that had included quite a bit of money they had appropriated from the group of thieves.

There was certainly enough money here to support our current personnel.

Since we are self-sufficient for the moment, earning more money isn't a necessity, however, we should earn it when we can since you will never know when you can get work in the future.

On top of that, it also seems wasteful to miss out on the large reward from this request. If some sort of commotion happens, I may end up losing out on my commission, but it could still be turned into a profitable situation given the right actions.

It will also give me a chance to lightly probe around the Princess which might allow me to pick up some important information that might otherwise escape me. There are more advantages than disadvantages in this situation.

Assessing the information I collected with [Intuition] I ended up deciding to accept the request. However, if we're going to end up taking the carriages to the Royal Capital, it will take some time to prepare them for the journey. Although we could also just travel there

by air now, we certainly don't have enough Falaise Eagles for everyone. The Royal Capital is also too far away from where we are currently located.

If I were to think about it, heading out with enough carriages would end up being more convenient anyway.

I also have to consider what members I should bring with me. Of course I will be bringing Kanami-chan with me as well as Auro and my other children.

While they are still in their growth period, they will still be a great help in any given situation. Hmmm, given the current task, I think I'll bring around twenty people in the case something happens. Those that stay behind can continue training their bodies. It might also be a good idea to let them head out into the forest to gain some rather needed experience on the hunt.

I spent a good amount of time today selecting the members that I would bring along with me to the Royal Capital.

Day 130

In the end, I decided on having several groups head out again. For that reason, I produced ten carriages and strengthened them using various abilities.

My group consists of 24 people and will be taking 4 carriages.

Minokichi-kun and Asue-chan's group consisting of 20 people with 3 carriages and will head for the Labyrinth City Purgatory in order to train and gather more materials.

The final group consisted of 22 people and were put on guard detail using three skeleton centipedes. Although the carriages can carry more members if I alter their size, this number is just fine for the time being.

Since we're departing tomorrow, I instructed each person to get their luggage together.

Blacksmith-san and the sisters are going to stay home this time around. There are four people staying since they seem to have things to do.

Sigh… Well, nothing more than to get ready and prepare for the best and the worst. Though I'm looking forward to the trip, I won't lie when I say I also feel a bit uneasy. The feeling is only subtle though.

Day 130 Sidestory: Gobujii's POV

Recently, the body movements, became completely bad. The eyes became hazy, the joints are aching, and the sexual desire faded away too.

Steadily, I will possibly also go (die).

Give me a little bit more, as I look at me burning away, to everywhere I can see (look).

I would like to soak in the hot springs, soak in them again and work hard.

Gobujii's life span = ■■ Day

Gobujii is Flagged

Day 131

Early in the morning, the expedition party was finally lined up in a row and left on schedule riding on the skeleton carriages.

Last night, I handed out various cloaks and ponchos to the 66 people that were heading out this time around. They were specifically customized to their specific tastes. These were the items that I had the leprechauns start making earlier. To note, I specifically made it so both me and Kanami-chan both have the same poncho type.

I distributed the rest of the coats and various clothing to the other group members staying behind. On the back of the overcoat is the emblem of the mercenary group Parabellum, with another insignia on the right shoulder that indicated what corps that person belonged to. On the left side of the chest, the individual's rank was indicated with golden thread.

You can tell what corps a person belongs to with a mere glance. It also allows other members of the group to easily determine the person's rank. The material is made of a combination of items dropped by various creatures such as the Minotaur. The leprechauns made this material by combining my own thread with various ingredients from monsters such as Powdered Turtle Snake Shell and Crystal Crocodile Skin using special techniques.

Combining these items created a peculiar thread that granted protection from both heat and cold, was fairly water resistant and had a quite high durability. The materials are normally quite expensive to obtain given that their drop rate is rather low, but since Minokichi-kun's group killed Minotaurs and other bosses in large quantities while they were at the Labyrinth City before, we had obtained a decent quantity of these materials.

The embroidery of the overcoat was of a superior quality as well, giving it even more protection than some new brand armors would have given, especially with the enchantments that were added into it. Mass production of the overcoats has been scheduled and I fully

plan on having them adopted as the standard equipment for Parabellum in the future.

Now then, let’s talk about the expedition. Although this is only the second expedition out of the forest using the skeleton carriages, some routes had already been established. This included the shortest route to get out of the forest from the base.

When the skeleton carriages advanced on difficult to traverse terrain such as the underbrush and overgrown forest/ mountain paths, they are able to change their shape according to the route, allowing them to more easily traverse the terrain.

Given the fact they're technically undead, they’ve also had a special coating applied that grants them a resistance to sunlight.

In the beginning, we spent a lot of time getting out of the forest as we had to make sure to cover our route out of the forest. That was to ensure that our path couldn’t be tracked back to our base.

While following the route, the expedition group had to form a line since the path was only wide enough to pass a single carriage at a time.

Of course, this is only until we get out of the forest.

After we exit the forest, the group will split up and head out to each of their respective destinations.

Now, as for the groups I mentioned before:

The first group is heading towards the Royal Capital Osvel is led by me.

There are 24 members aside from myself including Kanami-chan, Redhead, Wind Lord-chan and Seiji-kun. We’re using four skeleton carriages.

The second group led by Minokichi-kun is headed for Labyrinth City Purgatory where they will train and gather more materials.

There are 20 members with him including Minokichi-kun and Asue-chan, as well as several Lords and the Monkeys. They have three

skeleton carriages.

The final group is comprised of those that have worked hard within the group and is heading to the Sternbild Kingdom and Kirika Empire so that the members that the group comprises of can visit their families.

The people receiving this reward were those that went with Minokichi-kun's group before. It also includes their guard detail, for a total number of 22 people. They have three skeleton carriages.

That's the situation with the three groups that are heading out. Though each group will have their own toils and situations, we cannot allow any blunders to happen. When I think about blunders… I get an unpleasant feeling. Well, since it's pointless to worry about these things, I just need to move on and deal with anything as it happens.

This time, on our journey towards the Royal Capital, we didn't take the regular breaks that we had on the previous trip since I decided that we should cover as much distance as possible to get there quickly.

Because the skeleton carriages move in such a way that the passengers barely feel any movement whatsoever, equipment maintenance, studying and other nimble tasks are fairly easy to accomplish.

Our travel time was to be used as efficiently as possible. Thus, by the evening, we had already crossed the large plains and hilly areas and managed to pass through the mountain path that the Falaise Eagles resided in.

All in all, we covered quite a bit of distance today. Although a considerable amount of time was used as we stopped to regularly hunt the monsters of the various areas that we missed our first time through, the fact we advanced this far in one day is worthy of making a note of. Given that the skeleton carriages don't get tired and can travel at the same speed as a regular horse drawn carriage, they seem like they are an excellent form of transportation. In addition, the skeleton carriages can be modified to turn them into

primitive tanks. There are certainly quite a few uses for them.

In the evening, we decided to make camp in an open field off of the highway while I was considering the great potential for the skeleton carriages in the future.

They could even be modified into tents if the need arose. They certainly are convenient after all.

Since we had not done much training today, we trained extra hard for two hours this evening.

Although Fire Lord-kun was in my group previously, there was also a Dragonewt by the name of Ramura-san here this time.

She's a well-endowed beauty with fair skin that has golden colored hair that reaches down to her waist as well as having deep, golden eyes.

She has two horns that extend from her forehead and curve backwards. From her hips extended a long and thin tail, she also possessed a yellow dragon Orb in the center of her forehead.

Since the training focused on assessing their strength, Ramura-san and several other members ended up severely injured.

Fortunately, because Seiji-kun is in our group, they were safe since he was able to heal even serious injuries in a few moments. After that, Kanami-chan who had been holding back, and Redhead, who was going all-out had a sparring match.

Their appearance bathed in moonlight was extremely beautiful. Sigh, Kanami-chan and Redhead are simply stunning tonight….

Today's synthesis results:

【Crescent Flash】 + 【Flying Slash】 = 【Flying Crescent Flash】

Day 132

Today, we ended up continuing to ride in the carriages on the highway.

We ended up reaching the Fortress City of Trient at around 10AM.

As it stands, we had no outstanding issues entering Trient.

Since I had the opportunity to do so, I paid a visit to the gambling loving deputy manager of the farming company.

While there, I inquired about the market prices for buying and selling monster materials.

We departed from the town in less than an hour since we were trying to get to our destination without getting too sidetracked.

After that, we traveled down the highway at a fairly leisurely pace for some time, since we were good on time, we stopped in an area that the Big Cocco resided in order to acquire some lunch.

The raw meat from the Big Cocco was similar to that of a large chicken.

When you cook them, their juices overflow into your mouth, the meat is tender and delicious. As you take bites of the meat, it just makes you long for some rice to eat with it.

This barbecue is simply amazing though it’s a bit regrettable we didn’t have any salt to add into it though.

Then Redhead informed me that once a day at 2AM the Big Coccos seem to lay three eggs.

If a person has the skill to control the Big Cocco, effectively a monster to note, they make good domestic animals.

Since there was some room in our carriages this time around, I decided to turn four big and plump ones into familiars to bring along with us.

I’m looking forward to tomorrow morning. Should I make omelettes or fried eggs to eat?

In this way, we became involved with some armed men while we were eating our peaceful lunch. Two of the approaching men were rather obese. Their armor seemed like it wasn’t made for combat since there wasn’t a single scratch and it shined pointlessly.

The other one seemed abnormally thin and had a monk’s robe made of silver thread and a wand with a gem centered in on it.

The other young man seemed like he was equipped to be a knight, though he was fairly solidly built and did seem to actually be suitable for fighting, his armor was pointlessly decorated.

Their group led by these four people totaled 34 people.

Other than the four people leading who were probably from nobility, the rest of them seemed to have equipment for actual combat.

They seemed to have equipment that had been used for many years while the four’s equipment was practically new.

However, there seemed to be some peasantry mixed in amongst the thirty people. There was an old man with a long beard holding a lance as well.

Several middle-aged men were wearing bulky armor and wielding a large sword.

They seemed to have considerable skill since I could smell a large quantity of blood that was clinging to their bodies.

I’m sure they had killed a few dozen people at the very least given the quantity of blood upon their person.

Although some of the people stimulated my appetite and seemed worth me eating them. I quietly suppressed it and decided to observe the situation for awhile as I noticed that some of their group were people that I, in my ever growing lust for information, could infect with my parasites and brainwash.

A few minutes passed and now it seems like the reason they picked

a fight with us was because two of the six beautiful women from Kanami-chan and Ramura-san, appeared to have stimulated the senses of the four nobles.

Of the four nobles, it seems that one of them is a noble's son that used his membership in the Antegra Lance sword training school to make connections.

Since going out to hunt for monsters is a common occurrence, it seems they employ private soldiers and often act in various ways.

A summary of what they said to me was, "Hand over the women to us."

It wasn't just those two, they also included Redhead] and Wind Lord-san into their demands.

Although the four nobles' purpose seemed to be only Kanami-chan and Ramura-san, it's likely they planned to give the rest of the girls to their subordinates to… use.

The depressing truth is that this is the very typical attitude of the hopeless nobility of humanity.

If it's true that the nobles of this world have received a high level of education, then why do they always end up doing the same exact thing with their power and authority?

While I let out a disgusted sigh, the men encircled us, making it hard for us to get away.

There wasn't a single hint of hesitation in their movement, though, there wasn't any fighting spirit in their actions either. It was obvious that they were experienced with these specific movements. It seems that up until now, they have been taking various positions to finish their encirclement.

They drew their weapons as they began dawning their expressive and vulgar smiles that resembled their very obvious sadistic hearts. They've sunken just about as low as the depraved depths of greed and lust can take humans.

From the looks, they've probably sunken most of their money into buying new magical items for more or less the entire group. Taking that into account, as well as the fact that they've surrounded us, if it were a normal group of sub-humans fighting against these humans, it would certainly become very difficult to overcome this situation.

Moreover, they have not only superior numbers, they also have the geographical and positional advantages.

In the first place, the nobles of this world and myself both have the 【Lineage】 system, which I had acquired and was able to comprehend thanks to my abilities.

This easily makes me stronger than your average person. If a peasant and a noble have the same job, then at the same level, the noble will have an edge over them.

Just because of that, upon observing the location of where the four nobles were at, the thin boy, without a doubt possesses 【Job - Wizard】.

Of the four leaders, based on his appearance, the young man with the Knight-like equipment most likely holds 【Job - Knight】.

Although the equipment was uselessly flashy and excessive, they seemed to be strong enough to fight with.

It seems that referring to the two remaining people with obese figures as common soldiers matches them well, although since they are equipped with high priced magical items, calling them commanding officers would probably be more suitable.

…Hmmmm… Now then, what should I do? Should I choose to attack them, should I let the others kill them, or do I do it alone Decisions decisions. While I was considering this, they obviously got impatient and raised their hands to signal their men to attack us. One of the obese guys gave one of his subordinates with his chin, with the subordinate next to me complying.

As he reached Kanami-chan who had been closest to him, he extended his hand.

When his finger came into contact with her shoulder though… In an instant, the head of the subordinate that had touched her shoulder flew high into the sky.

For a brief moment, fresh blood gushed out from the neck where the head was cut off before gravity took over and the body collapsed.

Because I was right next to her, both Kanami-chan and myself had our bodies thoroughly soaked by the blood rain.... The meal topped off with a small sampling of human blood gave off a somewhat complicated taste...

Well, delicious is delicious, but it's a bit of a negative that the blood of the underling was unpleasant. The syrupy blood indicated that he probably lived a very unhealthy lifestyle in various ways.

What's this guy thinking to make others uncomfortable even after his death.

Ah… By the way, after the first victim appeared, Kanami-chan had already started losing control and started to act violently. Considering the violent state that she's already in, I somewhat want to stop her already… Would you say that these feelings she has surpasses normal rage…?

Kanami-chan's excessive fury had caused her to become expressionless and was moving at high speeds while swinging her claymore. The human bodies that met with her blade were ripped apart like they were paper. The human bodies, made of soft flesh, was easily torn apart and scattered by her continuous and destructive strikes.

With the mass production of flesh and a unending sea of blood, she brought forth ice spikes from the void which froze the flesh and blood to form a mountain of corpses. Then, only slightly ahead of the overwhelming slaughter, a veteran soldier turned to counterattack.

However, because of the 【Vampire Noble - Variant】 possesses the very powerful 【Eyes of Bewitchment】, which automatically kicks in when she removes her glasses, he nearly instantly yielded before her.

With her this angry, the power of Kanami-chan’s eyes were far too strong, there were few who could even resist.

There were even two people who could resist Kanami-chan’s gaze, however, she was able to crush them by surrounding them with her captivated prisoners.

This was essentially bullying. It wasn't a fight...the battle was on the level of a slaughter.

However, since annihilating them would cause the loss of valuable raw materials, I embraced Kanami-chan from behind, snapping her back to reality.

She won’t stop easily if I don’t do something of this caliber to embarrass her, but considering her personality, it really can’t be helped.

After that, in addition to the four people who had either parts or their entire limbs forcibly torn off, such as their hands and feet, that had passed out in agony, I surveyed the survivors as I brutally gathered them up in one place.

While I gave them medical treatment with my 【Blood Elixir】, I also decided to use my parasitic clones on all of them.

Nobles are typically more delicious than ordinary people. This is something that I have learned from many experiences and now, four of them are before my eyes. They are a bit young, but I may get something out of them nonetheless.

However, I refrained from eating these four for now.

They have already been allowed to return as spies, since they are my slaves sent to collect information. The reason I didn't eat these them is that I came to the conclusion that there are various benefits to be had by letting them leave alive.

One way or another, the more sources of information, the better. Information concerning the organization Antegra Lance, such as departure place of corrupt nobles to be killed will become easy to obtain, or at least easier. Besides, when I think about the assets that

these four people's families possess, it would be a waste to simply eat them now.

Having said that, the four were turned into my slaves with my parasitic clones. I turned towards them and smiled, causing them to turn pale. Moreover, as I passed them, they turned white as a sheet and fainted.

Why..?

Was it a bad idea to eat the corpses in front of them I wonder?

After placing the parasitic clones into the backs of all of the surviving members, we left and continued to advance along our route. It's troublesome to take it now. At some point we may come across others.

When that happens, I may decide whether to eat them or keep them as my slaves.

Day 133

After the events that had transpired yesterday, we quickly made our way through Shirisuka Forest before finally arriving at Mason Village .

We finally arrived at Mason Village at around three in the afternoon.

Although we could have easily continued on without shopping, the women, led by Kanami-chan and Redhead… convinced me to stay overnight.

What can I say… I was bribed... thoroughly…

At any rate, the hot springs here are said to have a rejuvenating effect on one's skin and many of the women in the group were exceptionally happy as a result.

As expected, there was still plenty of time and we were far ahead of schedule, so it shouldn't be a problem.

There was also a considerable support from the male members of the group to stay the night as well.

I discovered them suspended from trees using ropes in the morning, the reason for their situation was so obvious there is absolutely no reason to investigate it any further.

Personally, I didn't mind staying either since the effects of Mason Village's hot springs were far different from those at our base and left us fully refreshed and invigorated.

To say nothing of the hot springs themselves, the worker's posture, attitude and other aspects of serving their guests is very useful information and can honestly be used as a reference point for our own springs at a later date.

Some of this could immediately be put into use at our hot springs… so maybe I should send word to do that later…

It might be good to consider new ideas from time to time.

Having said that, should I also have the leprechauns make Japanese-style clothing next? ... The image of Kanami-chan and the rest of the girls in Kimonos…. I'll have to consider this idea further…

Well, as usual, I awoke quite early in the morning, through this time it was for the purpose of slow-boiling the eggs that the Big Coccos laid in the hot springs, of which everyone ate together.

After breakfast, we did some light training, after which, I once more entered the hot spring to cleanse myself of my sweat and fatigue. Enjoying the hot springs as I moved around, I came upon a large waterfall, another one of the famous sights of the village.

I relaxed for awhile in front of the large waterfall and although it remained unchanged itself, the point where the cool water met with the water of the hot springs caused mist to rise up.

This caused the surrounding temperature to rapidly fall, which is quite nice for cooling an overheating body.

Moreover, deep within the springs, I sensed the presence of an incredibly powerful creature, most likely a species of dragon, that is probably considered the guardian deity of this region that I had been told of when we had first visited the village.

When we came here before, I was a Great Ogre, so there was, at best, an incredibly low chance of victory.

However, considering the fact that i'm now an Apostle Lord, the chances of my victory is probably much higher now.

I do really enjoy Mason village though.

The hot springs are great and the welcoming disposition of the residents is nice.

If I were to fight this dragon, then i'm sure that Mason Village would be destroyed in the fallout of the battle.

Even if I did manage to defeat it, i'm sure the surrounding area would be changed dramatically from the battle.

Naturally though, I really do want to see the dragon…

However, I suppressed this desire as it's probably best for me not to encounter it and be tempted to do something i'll regret.

It's also probably a good idea to wait for a good chance to see one, since i'm sure it would be easy to encounter one if I entered a dungeon, it's probably necessary for me to challenge one at some point.

Thinking this, I turned my back on the waterfall and began heading back towards Mason Village.

When I did so, I sensed a powerful presence looking at me from behind, though I disregarded it and continued to return to the village.

We left Mason village at around eleven in the morning.

After crossing the Cluster Mountains where Auro and Argento were born, we arrived at the Labyrinth City, Purgatory, in the later part of the evening.

We decided to stay in Purgatory for the night since we need to prepare for our arrival at the Royal Capital Osvel tomorrow.

Day 134

We left the Labyrinth City Purgatory early in the morning and safely arrived at the Royal Capital Ósvel just before noon.

The liveliness of the city hadn't changed since the last time we were here.

The streets were packed with people and there were brick houses every which way you looked.

Carriages coming and going across the stone pavement which covered the surface of every street.

On the main street, various shops lined the street with just as many stalls and merchants going every which way.

Voices in high spirits fluttered in the air as goods and money exchanged hands rapidly.

Then we noticed that we had near countless eyes concentrated on us, a mixed gaze of both fear and inquisitiveness.

Adventurers diverted the crowd that was watching us while a great number of the spies from the Sternbild Kingdom and other countries were observing us from the shadows.

Despite the fact that it was shining with prosperity, there were also darker feelings swirling about, the Royal Capital certainly hadn't changed.

Then again, it would be abnormal if it HAD changed within the short span of time since our last time here.

Just like when we were previously here, as we crossed into the section of the city that the Royal Palace resides in, we received an even greater scale of attention than before.

Like this, we safely arrived before the gates of the Amber Palace.

Before the gates stood Boy Knight with the Princess, escorted with

numerous female palace guards accompanying her.

She donned her usual carefree smile that was quite appropriate for her age.

Even though I reported our arrival through the communication cuff beforehand, normally you wouldn't think that a Princess would come out to greet her guest personally.

That being the case, although it can't be helped, I may have been a considerably bad influence on the Princess as common sense doesn't seem to apply to her in the least.

Our reunion began with a quick exchange of greetings.

Afterwards, the Princess immediately declared to me, with some feeling, "Don't move, for just a short while, you have to become a giant tree, i'm climbing up."

I simply responded to this by saying, "Watch your step".

After which she stood at my feet and began to climb up my body.

Seeing as how she was already wearing clothes that were easy to move around in, it seems that she intended to do this from the very beginning.

In addition to being amazed, I also let out a sigh of relief.

It reminded me of a time when my niece came to play, and I eventually stopped shaking her off of me.

Sometimes, the Princess seemed like she was about to slide off, so I gave her a little assistance.

As the Princess safely reached my shoulder, she exclaimed,

"Doyaaa~!"

With a triumphant look on her face, and then began to survey her surroundings. Thinking she was satisfied, I considered lowering her back down. However, I instantly gave up on that notion since the Princess would obviously refuse. It was in this way that we set foot in the Amber Palace with the Princess astride upon my shoulder.

The Amber Palace hadn't changed and those seeing it for the first time were distracted by its elegance.

Seiji-kun had a particularly large reaction seeing it as he seemed to have been left speechless. After a clap of the hands, they seemed to more or less return to their senses with a small jump and we began to work. For the time being, we unloaded our luggage from the carriage and brought it into the rooms we will be staying in.

After quickly deciding who will be in which room, we gave a very quick self-introduction.

During this time, the Princess was most surprised when Auro and Argento were introduced.

Regrettably, it's because she's still a baby, Nicola stayed at home with Alchemist-san.

Oniwaka became emotionally attached to Minokichi-kun so he didn't stay with my group…

Auro and Argento wanted to come along with me though.

Due to the specific traits of their race, their bodies have already grown quite big. Although I say that, it seems that their growth speed cannot be compared to the normal members of their race.

Still, the Princess, who had held those two in her arms as newborns, held her mouth open in surprise as the fact that they had already grown so much in such a short period of time. Considering that it's usually the Tomboy Princess herself that is surprising people, it seemed quite unusual for her to be caught off guard and surprised instead.

Although the Boy Knight and other Royal Guards were also surprised, they looked on with calm smiles.

Then, for today's evening meal, the Princess held a grand banquet for us.

I was treated to various types of alcohol which I drank in a great quantity.

Although the majority of them were not as good as Elven wine, it was still all high class alcohol and I was thoroughly satisfied with all of them.

As expected of the Royal Family, amongst what was served, the alcohol found in dungeons was especially delicious.

I have completely decided at this point that I will enter a dungeon alone at some point soon in search of both alcohol and a dragon.

Fortunately, since the Royal Capital is within an hour’s flying distance of the Labyrinth City Purgatory, I think I will be able to get a day off eventually.

Day 135

As was decided yesterday, given that the Princess's request this time was for me to act as the training instructor for the Amber Palace's guards, I began training with the palace guards quite early in the morning.

However, because it would not be a good idea for me to gather all of the palace guards at once for training, I decided it to be best to split them up into several groups instead.

It seems that the Princess has reserved the Amber Palace's training grounds for us, so I took the initiative and began giving the first group their basic training there. I decided to corner them until they reached their limit while also dishing out a substantial level of verbal abuse to the extent of making myself sound as if I was a sergeant.

Thus, in the evening, whith all thirty members of the first group of palace guards completely worn out and beaten, I had Seiji-kun treat them.

In the beginning, it seemed some of the palace guards weren't intent on taking this seriously. It seems these pitiable palace guards had some complaints.

Later on for the members of the group that could still move despite their fatigue, I held my standard sparring sessions which seemed to put an end to the complaints. Really, I want more out of these palace guards and to force them to do their best since they were hand picked to protect the Princess.

Credits

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